

Speech

The Gap State High School P&C 2019 year was such a great year we got to have an extra 3 months thrown in - so the truth is it has been a big year. I attended many school ceremonies and celebrations in the role of President and it was an honor to be at every one of them to see what a great school and community we have.

So much has happened and been achieved in this time that it is impossible to list off everything here but you will see summaries in the sub committee reports attached to the AGM.

Some of the highlights are:-

PopArts, with the revamped Tula festival, their annual trivia night and support of the school musical. The continued expansion of PopArts into featuring all the Arts not just music is really coming together.

The Parent Engagement Group (PEG), getting really good turnouts at meetings. The Group is developing a strong connection with the Inclusion staff who were regular invited attendees along with special guests during the year.

The SHAPE committee purchasing a drone for training but we all got to benefit from it with footage of the Cross Country shared last year via social media. Also the SHAPE committee following the suggestions of the Junior Captains purchased a large electronic clock for the Sports Hall. This was just one example where the committees have really tried to reach out and work with students and the school to identify their priorities and to improve the facilities.

I also want to make special mention of the work of David and Trish Dunn. This has been their last year with SHAPE and anyone who has anything to do with Sport within the school will know that David and Trish have been the backbone of this committee and the parent support group for Volleyball. Special mention was made at last years Sports Awards night as well. Thankyou to you both.

Another example of the P&C efforts to reach out is the work of the Infrastructure Working Group who through great connections with student leadership groups saw 700 students voting for school facilities they thought would make their time in the school better. This has resulted in not only in the installation of the bubbler system where more students can access cold water during the day to fill up water bottles but also the skateboard and scooter rack - designed by our members working with School staff and students which we hope will encourage more students actively traveling to school and take some pressure of the roads.

One of the challenges we have faced as a P&C in a growing school is how to connect parents/ families. Activities for Activities (A4A) became a sub committee last year with the core purpose of establishing /developing school and community interaction. For the first time in the school's history, A4A organized a Yr 7 Meet and

Greet function for parents in the first week of school. Over 200 parents and guardians were able to meet other Year 7 families and connect at this critical transition time. The P&C once again wishes to thank the 25 plus parent volunteers from other year levels who provided a smorgasbord of food and drinks to welcome our new school families. This is what P&C is about. A4A has engaged students, parents and teachers in also had us playing Nerf Wars, ping pong and Ninja nights. Not to mention them pivoting during Covid with online community connection with in home scavenger hunt and Chinese dancing.

Regarding the businesses attached to the P&C there has been a number of highlights as well:-

At the last AGM the Coffee shop was only getting started – the idea had come from a parent the year before – Andrew Hammond. After a very slow start, a remarkable group of then Yr 11 students took it upon themselves to work on promoting the coffee shop within the school community. At the same time the Inclusion and Food technology teaching staff both saw opportunities for their students to benefit from been involved in the working with the Café. There are so many stories, which were shared last year regarding students doing Cert training and getting work experience and going on to get part time jobs. One favorite was a Yr 12 student who found school challenging but his goal was to get a job on the front counter at McDonalds. His Mum and Kyra, our great convener, worked together with the student getting him confident with serving customers. For me to get a call saying that he had been offered a position at The Gap McDonalds in his first week of leaving Yr 12 was the highlight of my P&C year.

To see the café in action today is a credit to all those who did go the extra mile and to the 2019 P&C who believed there was something in giving it a real chance. A special mention has to go to the Musco family who donated \$1000 towards the purchase of the coffee machine.

In 2019, the P&C embarked on a Uniform Shop Review, which saw a thorough implementation of technology that had been approved by previous P&C's. Establishing procedures and systems that empower our staff to run the shop more autonomously was seen as critical to the long term sustainability of the P&C business. Ordering uniforms online was also successfully introduced. The online sales have been growing every week. The shop is currently trialing 5 days a week opening and is in the process of a facelift due to our new convener sourcing the fittings from Marist Brothers Uniform Shop for free!! I would like to again thank Britta and Renuka our previous convener's for their years of service to the school community in the uniform shop.

The Tuckshop has had the Square POS implemented, which puts all our businesses on the same platform and helps with our bookkeeping and management of the businesses across the board. Great credit goes to Paula for keeping the Tuckshop

open during the return to school of a limited number of students and providing a safe environment to cater for staff and students during a stressful time. A couple of changes implemented over this time will more than likely continue in some form going forward such as a quick service counter.

A project that also needs mentioning is Containers for Change which was organized by Martin (outgoing VP). The money for this goes directly to the school which was apparently the biggest collection point at one stage in Qld.

Being President of this P&C has not been without its challenges, while many great and good things were happening there were challenges within the executive, which lead to the P&C undertaking a process to remove an officer and member of the P&C. This process, although eventually overturned by the department on appeal due to procedural defects, showed that the families of this school want a P&C that is working together, setting high standards and goals and behaving in a manner that the community can be proud of.

In closing I want to thank all our staff, volunteers especially executives on our subcommittees and the school for sharing with us the vision and seeing a space for the P&C to contribute to this. A special big thankyou to Greg for his 3 years as Treasurer for the P&C. He will still be around for this year helping with transition. I also thank Penni for stepping up as a non parent to be Minutes Secretary to assist David. Wendy also needs a special mention as she has again coordinated the stationery ordering and more importantly guided the Uniform shop review which was a massive undertaking.

On another note, on behalf of the P&C I want to thank David and Trish Dunn who after six years as dedicated volunteers, have left the school but their work not only for SHAPE but the wider P&C has to be recognised – the P&C has its own dedicated internet access, we have Square installed and working really well for our businesses, a P&C website and we have an online uniform shop. These are just a few examples of where David and Trish not only offered their knowledge in what options might work for the P&C, but actually spent hours implementing these changes including staff training, procedure writing etc – all as volunteers (can we some how do a clap).

I wish the best to the 2020 Executive.