



2022 Annual Community Meeting – Chairperson's Report

Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Good evening and welcome to the 2022 Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School (MGPCS) School Advisory Council (CSAC) and Parents and Friends Association annual community meeting.

It's great to see so many members of our extended school community here tonight including parents, carers, staff, P&F representatives, and parish representatives.

I want to start my report with a huge thank you to the staff of Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School. Over the last few years, you have dealt with challenges that have never had to be dealt with before. Your professionalism and commitment to our children has shown through. To see how the children have thrived under your care is a credit to your hard work and devotion to your students. I know that Therese will speak further on the staff of Matthew Gibney in her coming report.

I wish to give a special thank you to a member of staff who has given continued excellence in her service to this school. Dianne Scriven commenced at Matthew Gibney 24 years ago. Through Di's hard work she soon became a Deputy Principal of the school. Di is an integral member of the School Advisory Council providing insights to the workings of the school to the other members of the council. Her input has always assisted us in the decisions that we have made for the future of the school. Di has decided to retire at the end of this school year to spend more time with her family. You will be sadly missed Di and on behalf of the school community I offer the very best of wishes for your future life in retirement. Thank you.

The school budget is strong, and the School Advisory Council Treasurer George Coldham, who commenced as the treasurer this year, will provide a more in depth look at the school finances when he presents his report later. The School Advisory Council has continued to plan and investigate options for capital works for the future of the school and I'm pleased to announce that CEWA has approved the construction of new Year1/2 toilet block with a universal/disabled toilet as part of the new toilet block. This is hoped to be the first stage of future capital works that the School Advisory Council are currently working on with Therese and CEWA. The toilet block tender will be advertised in early 2023.

The school Advisory Council has been looking at the academic school fees for 2023. I'm pleased to announce that the council has decided to not increase the academic school fees for 2023. A decision I know will please parents and guardians.

The School Advisory Council has several sub committees which meet once per term. All members of the Council sit on one of the School Advisory Council sub-committees. Last year the "Student Well Being" sub-committee was created. With Emma Brierty, Narelle Gielingh, Chloe Grant, and Therese Hussey as the members of this committee. They were able to identify how best to provide a safe and flourishing environment for the children. The Student Well Being sub-committee has guided staff with suggestions

around activities for this year's "Wellness Week". They continue to investigate further activities for the new school year in 2023 and will provide staff with suggestions for their consideration.

The marketing sub-committee has continued its excellent work and has attracted several families to the school boosting our class numbers. They have used several avenues to promote our school which included letter box drops, social media, school open days and tours of the school for prospective parents. We're also about to launch the new promotional video on the school web site and on social media. Please keep an eye out for that one and let others know of its availability. With Therese Hussey, Di Scriven and Karen Keddie leading the way there has been a marked improvement in the enrolment for this year and for 2023. The enrolments for the 2024 Pre-Kindy class are rapidly being filled.

Thanks to Glen Waddington, Paul Kaciuba, Steve Vajas and Therese who make up the Maintenance committee along with me. This sub-committee looks at the various maintenance issues around the school site and look at options to have these rectified. This year some of the more urgent maintenance issues addressed were the tree damage to the bitumen in the staff car park, replacement of rain gutters and downpipes, the replacement of several water isolation valves, and the replacement of the main veranda poles which are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Further, new ramps for the disabled parking have been installed.

The Canteen / Uniform committee of Jamie Smith, Narelle Gielingh and Katie Pillera have implemented changes to create improved outputs from the operations of the canteen and uniform shop. The continuing use of an online ordering system has been popular with parents when placing orders with the canteen and uniform shop. The continuing review of food items supplied is ongoing with the canteen manager Alison Honter. This year has seen an improvement to the operations of the uniform shop. Thanks very much to Lisa Denys who manages the uniform shop. We've seen a change to the uniform shop's operations. The shop is stocking uniforms on site and has been able to cover all its operating costs for the year. This a terrific result and I thank the members of the committee as well as Alison and Lisa for their ongoing work in these areas.

I thank Clare Arnold for her ongoing efforts in providing a strong link between the school community and the St Francis of Assisi parish. Clare has been the parish representative on the School Advisory Council for 3 years now. In that time, she has provided a strong voice for the school within the parish. The improved partnership that she has developed has seen many parish visitors to the school during various events such as Matthew Gibney Day.

Thank you to all the members of the School Advisory Council for your assistance during the year. Neil Pescud and Glen Waddington joining the School Advisory Council as full members this year and Narelle Gielingh, Katie Pillera, Jamie Smith, George Coldham, Emma Brierty, Clare Arnold, Karen Keddie, Di Scriven, Therese Hussey, and Kaitlyn Gelmi who recently joined the School Advisory Council as the P&F representative made up the members of the council. Your expertise, time, and service to the school community in both the School Advisory Council meetings and sub-committees has seen much work completed and future works and plans put into place for the betterment of the school. To Katie Pillera I want to thank you for your dedicated time with us on the School Advisory Council over the last 4 years. Katie has served this year as the secretary of the School Advisory Council committee. Katie has decided to leave to spend more time with her family. We will miss Katie's incite when discussing school life matters. We're sorry to see you leave.

Thanks goes to the P&F executive and committee members for their dedicated service. With your commitment to fund raising and your inclusive efforts to further strengthen the school community, your work is to be applauded. The financial contributions that you have provided have made available school resources to the betterment of the most important members of our school community, the children. Sponsoring the Year 6 camp each year and providing contemporary learning resources to the school helps to alleviate financial burdens to school families. The strong fund-raising efforts have contributed financially to several initiatives within the school. I'm sure that Steph Kaciuba will provide more on these matters when she presents the P&F Presidents report. I also thank the class representatives for their work.

It's always pleasing to see the number of class reps that attend the P&F meetings and who are willing to assist wherever possible.

Thanks also to the general school community for all the various volunteer activities that you perform. Those that stack chairs, dismantle the stage, exchange Lexile books, help in the canteen, assist in the uniform shop, help by setting up for sporting events and cleaning up afterwards. These are just some of the things that our community members volunteer to do. The school wouldn't operate as well without your help in these tasks.

I take the opportunity to thank those who helped to organise the Father's and Kids camp this year. Although not an event run by the school or the P&F, it has grown to be an important part of the school communities' activities. To George Coldham, Paul Kaciube, Paul Wyers, Geoff Temple, and Adam Hughes thanks for organising this year's camp. Thank you for getting this event up and running. It provides a great opportunity to get all the dad's together and get to know each other. It also provides an opportunity for Mum's to get some quiet time without the other half and kids being around. This year's father / kids camp saw over 120 dads, and kids in attendance. Thanks to Hoist Torque, Motorcycle Masters, CH Robinson, George Larners Transport, and Discover Comfort Air Conditioning for being camp sponsors.

I want to take a moment to thank one of the Father's, Geoff Temple. Geoff along with Anthony Lees, a past parent, established Father / Kids camp in 2010. They ran this together until 2015. It started as Father / Sons camp and Geoff and Anthony recognised that the numbers weren't there to support this profile and so they expanded it to Father and Kids. When Anthony finished his time with Matthew Gibney the event was run for several years by Geoff alone. He would arrange the accommodation, food, and all activities. A huge task for Geoff to carry out on his own. Geoff has seen all his son's progress through Matthew Gibney and this year Geoff and Sasha will see their youngest son Aiden graduate year 6. I'm pleased to see several dad's have stepped up to take over the running of this event allowing Geoff to enjoy more of his time at this year's camp. Thank you, Geoff, for leaving us with this event that father's and kids will be able to enjoy in the coming years.

In 2014 I started to attend P&F meetings to see how I could contribute at the school. In 2015 I took on the role of P&F President and served in the role for 3 years. I then took on the role of the P&F representative to the School Board (now the School Advisory Council) for a year. I then joined the School Advisory Council as a full member and held the position of Deputy Chair. This year I was asked to take on the Chairperson's position. I've been proud to have served the school community. This is a strong school community. While attending a P&F President's annual meeting some time ago. I was talking to a group of President's from other schools, and they were envious of what we were able to do due to the community spirit and support that Matthew Gibney has. In my time I have only seen this aspect of our community strengthen further and encourage you to continue the further growth of friend raising to contribute to what will now be your school community. Please consider how you can help the school be even better, and if so inclined, consider taking part in the workings of the P&F and School Advisory Council when opportunities arise. It is very rewarding.

Thanks to Therese Hussey for all of her support during the year and for putting up with me continually phoning to ask questions, especially over the last week while I've been compiling my report for tonight.

Finally, with my youngest daughter Sophia graduating year 6 this year and heading off to her senior schooling, my time at Matthew Gibney will be coming to an end. My eldest Daughter commenced kindy at Matthew Gibney in 2013 and in my time at Matthew Gibney, I've seen my three daughters progress through the school. They have all done well academically, but more importantly to me, they have developed a strong sense of community. This comes from the wonderful efforts of all within the Matthew Gibney school community. From Staff, other parents and all the other friends of our wonderful community guiding them along the way.

I want to thank everyone for all the support that I've had over the years in my various roles within the school community. More importantly, thanks to everyone who has guided my daughters into the strong, community minded young ladies that they are and the women that they will become.

Our time as parents of Matthew Gibney is coming to an end and with that comes sadness. Matthew Gibney has become so much a part of the fabric of our family. On behalf of my wife Natalie, and our three daughters Charlotte, Jacinta and Sophia, thanks for making our lives so much more enriched. We offer all our best wishes for the future to all those in the community of Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School.

Mike Feltham

School Advisory Council Chair

Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School

23rd November 2022