St Simon’s Parents’ Association

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why do we need a Parents’ Association (PA)?

A. The PA helps to organize extra fundraising and social events at the school such as Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stall, morning teas, food in-service days and social events such as the movie night.

Q. We pay fees so why do we need to fundraise?

A. Catholic students on average receive 20 percent less government funding than government schools. When fees are included, Catholic schools operate on around 90% of the cost of education in a Victorian government school. According to Catholic Education Melbourne, we need to fundraise to try and make up this difference to ensure that our children have the most up to date equipment and resources for their learning and development.

Q. Where does all the money the PA raises go?

A. Each year the PA contributes $10,000 towards the schools IT department and in consultation with the Principal, Mr Hesse, we select a project within the school to raise funds for. In 2014/2015 we have been fundraising for Shade...
Sails to cover the playgrounds on the oval. The second set of sails will be installed over the summer holidays.

Q. **What positions are on the PA?**

A. The PA consists of the Principal, teacher representatives and the following parent positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. There are also General Members and School Advisory Board Representatives.

Q. **How many parents do we need on the PA?**

A. We need as many parents as possible on the PA. The parents we have means that we have more ideas, and we can spread the workload around.

Q. **I work full time – I don’t have time to commit to the PA?**

A. We currently have members who work different hours. Each member contributes what they can into their life. We meet once a month on a Wednesday at 7pm to plan events and set up sub-committees. These subcommittees plan the finer details of events. These sub-committees will organise times to meet that are suitable to its members or correspond via email.

Q. **I have young kids so I can’t make meetings.**

A. No problem! We often meet before and after school to count money and do paperwork in meeting room 3. Kids are more than welcome.

Q. **A part from helping the school what’s in it for me?**

A. A part from the satisfaction we get from helping the school and our children we have a barrel of laughs and a load of fun! We make new friends and support networks which is great when those important newsletters don’t make it home!