

## **Why don't we have a P&C?**

P&Cs came about a long time ago when communities and families lived quite differently, often with one parent staying home and everyone having a little more time to give. In our contemporary community, many families now have two working parents, are living life in the fast lane and generally have less time to regularly volunteer. For schools that still have P&Cs, often a very small group take on all the work and this simply isn't sustainable. We like to include everyone and are mindful of our busy diverse families, including FIFO families so have taken a more flexible and inclusive approach to family engagement.

## **How can I get involved in volunteering?**

When we hold an event or need parents to help us out in our school, we 'shout out' to all our families on Compass and see who is available to offer some support. We welcome mums, dads, grandparents and extended family members. We appreciate that sometimes people can help us for a one-off event, and this doesn't rely on people being part of an ongoing committee.

## **Which tasks can family members help with?**

Often we need help to set up gazebos and equipment for events. Sometimes we need help to cook a sausage sizzle. We sometimes need help with excursions such as carnivals. We also welcome regular volunteers through our Page Pals program to listen to our children learning to read. There are other tasks you can assist with too from time to time, such as covering books for our library and unpacking and sorting games.

## **How do we fundraise?**

Whilst traditionally P&Cs raise additional funds for equipment and projects, schools are in fact able to fundraise themselves, without a P&C. During the year, our school generally holds a couple of fundraising events such as icy pole sales or an occasional dress-up day. There are also other innovative ways of accessing additional funds for example community grants and donations. Satterley (Seaside Estate) kindly paid for our playground with the flying fox and big swing. We are also fortunate to have a beautiful new school with state-of-the-art facilities, so fundraising isn't as relevant for us right now.

## **Why don't we hold lots of extra events?**

Whilst we hold a number of special events and celebrations throughout the year, our core business is teaching and learning. We endeavour to ensure that our children make good academic progress and develop a strong sense of belonging, safety and happiness within our school. Achieving this takes a lot of work, and this is where we focus our time and energy. We're mindful of the increasing pressures on families and don't want to add to this by frequently requesting costumes, gold coin donations etc. Life is full enough, so we want to focus on the things that really matter. Fun is definitely on the agenda, but it's not our main purpose.

We expect a lot from our brilliant team of staff, but it's not reasonable to expect them to provide lots of additional activities and attend out of hours events regularly.

## **Do we celebrate traditions such as Christmas, Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day?**

As a new school, it's exciting to be able to establish our own traditions and determine what might be celebrated in classes, across the school or in the wider community. We pride ourselves on being inclusive, recognising that not everyone celebrates in the same way and that everyone's family is different. We tend to hold events such as our annual family breakfast, beach day and end of year celebration that include and celebrate everyone. Classes may participate in some festive activities towards the end of term or may sing Christmas songs at the concert, but this isn't a big whole school focus. Most traditions fall on weekends or holidays.

Classes also recognise significant events such as NAIDOC Week and ANZAC Day through purposeful and engaging activities.

## **Do our children miss out?**

Absolutely not. Our children are happy and thriving and generally love coming to school because they have good relationships with their teachers and peers, feel supported in their learning and enjoy their lessons and social experiences. Data on the wellbeing of our students at Madora Bay strongly supports this.

They really enjoy the events we provide such as whole school team rewards, carnivals and Children's Book Week. They also enjoy the regular days and race through the gates every morning!

We're fortunate to have great access to community events in Mandurah such as sporting 'come and try' sessions, discos, performances, movie nights, festivals and fireworks; so there's no shortage of fun events on our doorstep.

## **What about assemblies?**

We hold a brief whole school meeting every fortnight on a Monday at 2.15pm (odd weeks) where students are awarded badges for reaching points milestones and we reveal the team point totals too. Parents are welcome to come along. We hold occasional special assemblies such as our Leavers' Assembly or for the choir to sing. Parents are welcome to attend.