



PARENTS AND FRIENDS FACT SHEET

1. What is the diocesan building levy spent on?

The Diocesan Building Levy is a Broken Bay school system fee levied against each family to support the system-wide building fund. This fund combines the revenues from all our families so that the system can use the benefits of economies of scale. Over the last 15 years this building fund has built new schools and performed major refurbishments in existing schools. To have done this work the fund has incurred significant loans, \$98m, and the revenue from the building levy is used to service that debt.

2. What is the P & F levy spent on?

At the first P & F meeting held each year the principal puts a "wish list" forward to the P & F to which they donate their funds, in line with the constitution which states, "Funds are transferred to the school as a donation to support and contribute to the resourcing of the school's strategic plan. All donations are to be transferred expeditiously, in full and without restriction."

At the end of each year, the income and expenditure of P & F monies is reported in the newsletter. It is also displayed in the foyer of the school office.

3. Can we fundraise on top of the levy?

In 2007, in response to the busy lives parents lead which invariably leaves us very short of personnel willing to put in the many hours required to undertake major fundraising exercises such as a fete, a P & F levy of \$96/family was introduced. This is in line with many schools who nowadays find themselves in the same position with time-poor families. However, there are events that take place during the year of which the primary function is to build community or are offered as a service, eg. Mothers' and Fathers' day stalls, the Annual Dinner Dance, Trivia and Games Night, the Second Hand Uniform Shop, the canteen and the Bunnings BBQ. These events/services have a necessary monetary component and any profit from these, which ranges from \$500-\$1500, is donated with the P&F levy towards the items mentioned in the above "wish list".

N.B. these events/services are purely voluntary and parents who object to building community and/or raising funds to purchase resources for the children/improve the school facilities do not have to participate.

4. Can we sell chocolates as a fundraiser?

The diocesan "Healthy Fundraising Guidelines" states, "The promotion and sale of confectionary, high saturated fat and sugar foods for profit is counter-productive to healthy eating messages within the curriculum and school environment."

5. Can we improve the canteen?

As the main co-ordinator of the canteen over the past three years, I'd like to reiterate that we have improved the canteen by implementing multi co-ordinator roles including:

- *Stock take and ordering*
- *Monies counting and banking/float preparation*
- *Account reconciliation and cheques at month end/annual audit and P&F meeting reports preparation. Hence taking the responsibility off one main manager, making the running of canteen easier.*

We have also, based upon feedback received –

- *Outsourced cleaning, as there was disgruntled feedback of volunteers cleaning.*
- *Brought healthy snacks to the canteen, sourced and packaged up regularly by volunteers.*
- *Consistently turned profit which is donated back to the school to assist in purchase of further resources for school ie. Rep sport uniforms, home readers, Smart boards, where Government funding falls short or by choice*

What we have found is that with a volunteer run canteen we can –

- *Turn a profit and still help the school to better the education of our children.*
- *Keep health issues of food service at bay by using individually wrapped foods as much as possible so allergy reduction is paramount, and surprise inspections will not be a major issue.*
- *Keep smiles on our childrens' faces and offer our year six children experience in a retail environment.*
- *We can maintain fair and reasonable pricing by not having to pay an outsourced Company to run the canteen, and continue to help the school, whilst maintaining the traditional family run service the kids enjoy.*

There have been many discussions that - we don't believe an external Company would take on the canteen running, in its current capacity.

- *the price of items would increase considerably,*
- *It would not prove viable for them as a business,*
- *the canteen would need to be opened every day, increasing demand from children on parents for money, increasing also the foods that are on offer at most canteens, which remain the source of ridicule with many parents as is.*
- *They would also have insurances and procedures that would be required to be implemented and would inhibit help from parents and students as a result, potentially completely.*
- *At minimum, 1 hour each Wednesday for 2 volunteers, and Fridays 6 hours x 2 volunteers each canteen, at what I feel is a fair wage of \$20/hour part time would equate to \$520/week x 40 weeks is \$20,800 per year. The canteen cannot sustain this. Currently we donate profit of between \$7,000 and \$10,000 per year back to school.*

Very little daily fresh food comes pre-packaged, we offer outsourced fresh sandwich making to cater for this, and volunteers are free to introduce creative fruit products for sale at canteen as well as other alternatives of their own accord, remaining outside the usually provided foods.

Feedback from some volunteers was negative regarding food preparation – we need 'all in' to make a change, or an alternative, the alternative is what we have.

Canteen Green and fresh is very hard to find in a fast serve form, which a high turnover of volunteers requires, due to the inconsistency.

I do still go searching from time to time to see if there are new and improved products on offer, this can be time intensive.

We do remain constantly open to any feedback and suggestions from all sources, it remains to be seen that people will in fact step up and follow their complaints through to offer legitimate alternatives we can adopt.....however, we do remain open to new ideas.

Renee Heaney