

OUR PTA WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU

The heart of our community spirit is nurtured through community involvement in local activities, and these are so often created by the opportunities initiated through the Parent Teachers Association (PTA). Over the years Elmwood has benefited from a strong commitment from the PTA membership. There have been some highly successful fundraisers generating significant funds, as well as many community social gatherings and fun times. As we all enjoy the benefits of the school pool, performances in the auditorium, junior playground activity, the protection from the sun under the shade sails, our wonderful trees, gardens, outdoor seating and deck areas, the native bush area, and all the extra learning resources for classroom work, we can reflect with a sense of gratitude, appreciating the hard work and the dedicated support received from past and present PTA workers who have made it all possible. Those on the Elmwood staff have also played a strong part. They know that working alongside parents through a range of community promotions, gatherings and fundraising events strengthens the partnership that ultimately brings them the respect and support they need for advancing their teaching effectiveness. The resourcing extras further the possibilities for enhanced learning.

At this time the PTA is calling for more parent members as they begin to plan out the community/school events programme for the year. Claire Peacock-Price has been the PTA Chairperson for the past three years and her leadership direction has been very much focused on bringing the community together with a sense of active involvement and fun. At the AGM last week she announced that she is standing down from this role as she takes on a full-time teaching position at this school. I take this opportunity to thank Claire for the outstanding job she has done, and acknowledge the huge contribution she has made.

There is always excitement and anticipation when the PTA comes up with innovative ways to promote community events or fundraisers. Injecting new ideas or new approaches that stimulate wider community interest and participation is integral to the culture of Elmwood. PTA/staff spellathons, knowledgeathons, quiz evenings, garden and kitchen tours, fun days, fashion shows, silent auctions, sales promotions through entertainment books, second-hand uniforms, and calendars, lunch orders and of course the many raffles are some examples of the types of fundraising activity that have been successful promotions over recent years. All such events are great school/community relationship builders, and have done much to strengthen the community's desire to strongly support its local school.

It is timely for us all to say "Thank You" to the many parents who consistently lend a hand and actively engage in the activities promoted through the PTA – be assured, we welcome and appreciate your positive involvement with our school.

Participating parents are able to get a first hand view of the difference we all can make to enhance the school's desire to offer quality education. I encourage all parents to consider taking the opportunity to support the PTA, either through membership that enables you to take an active part in the decisions made by the group, or simply by supporting the activities promoted throughout the year. Please contact the school office to indicate your interest.

Kevin Gooch

Principal