St Thomas Parents & Friends Survey 2015

- Wednesday, August 05, 2015
P&F GOALS 2015 – 2016

The P&F are given goals through the Catholic Schools Office. Please read the following six goals and rank them in order of what is most important to you and your family.

Goal 1: Reaching out to all associated with the school to build a friendly and welcoming faith filled community, which seeks to involve all its members.

Goal 2: Providing a parental perspective to assist the principal in decision-making.

Goal 3: Raising funds to provide resources and opportunities for enriching the learning environment of the school.

Goal 4: Supporting parents and carers in their parental responsibilities and involvement in their children's learning at home and school.

Goal 5: Providing opportunities for parents and carers to gain insights into the life of the school, current developments in education and Catholic education in particular.

Goal 6: Providing a means for parents and carers to affiliate with the Diocesan Parent Counsel (DPC) and have a voice at diocesan level and with the Council of Catholic School Parents at state level.

Top priority

Goal 1: Reaching out to all associated with the school to build a friendly and welcoming faith filled community, which seeks to involve all its members.

Goal 2: Providing a parental perspective to assist the principal in decision-making.

Mid priority

Goal 3: Raising funds to provide resources and opportunities for enriching the learning environment of the school.

Goal 4: Supporting parents and carers in their parental responsibilities and involvement in their children's learning at home and school.

Lower priority

Goal 5: Providing opportunities for parents and carers to gain insights into the life of the school, current developments in education and Catholic education in particular.

Goal 6: Providing a means for parents and carers to affiliate with the Diocesan Parent Counsel (DPC) and have a voice at diocesan level and with the Council of Catholic School Parents at state level.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Over the years St Thomas School and the P&F have run many parent information evenings. Are you interested in attending parent information sessions?

75.4% Yes 24.6% No

Have you attended any of the following evenings offered in the past?

- Over half of respondents have never attended an information evening
- Literacy and Maths concepts most popular
We regularly advertise the DPC parent sessions where experts in family and education related matters present on topical information. Have you attended any of them?

- **Overwhelmingly NO**, due to being too busy, requiring sitters, too far to travel.
- However those who attended rated the sessions highly.

If we were to arrange for external speakers to come to our school would you be interested in attending?

- **Yes**
- **No**

What are the areas that interest you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Options</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional issues such as developing self-esteem, building resilience, promoting positive body</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General parenting skills such as communicating with kids, dealing with talking back, resolving</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring screen usage, cyber surfing, and social media</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typical age-based behaviours and coping skills</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>75</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There is some interest in new educational methods and approaches.

**Are staff-led information sessions of interest to you?**

- **Yes**: 91.2%
- **No**: 8.8%

**If yes, what areas are of most interest?**

- **Overview of the class curriculum for the year**: 52.2%
- **“Teaching the parent” lessons on current methodologies so parents can provide hands-on assistance with their child’s learning at home**: 35.7%
- **Stage learning tips for parents such as typical issues encountered with numeracy and literacy and how to approach them**: 12.2%

Answers are misleading as the question only allowed one response – all three are of interest.
What is your preferred day and time to attend these sessions (if interested)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM (9am-11am)</th>
<th>PM (7pm-9pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Currently we hold an Opening Mass to welcome families at the beginning of each year, and each grade hosts a Sunday mass for students and their families. For parents, a prayer group is held every Monday morning in the Library and an onsite retreat day is held annually (with childcare provided).

Do you feel as a community we are faith focused enough?

- Yes: 90%
- No: 10%

COMMUNICATION In regard to communication from your P&F committee, what is your preferred form of communication?

- Current form - P&F newsletter: 70%
- P&F meetings: 20%
- Separate email: 10%
- Separate P&F newsletter: 0%

How much contact would you like?

- More contact than you: 90%
- The same amount of: 80%
- Less contact than you: 6%
PARENT INVOLVEMENT We value a community where everyone feels welcome, and create occasions that bring our families, children and teachers together. Do you feel welcome within our community?

Are you aware there are a number of useful resources maintained regularly on the school website? These include calendars, P&F meeting minutes, newsletters and news items. Secure class pages are currently being updated with class news and class-specific information.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT While involving parents in school activities has important community and social benefits, engaging parents to fully participate in their child’s learning has been found to be key to facilitating positive improvements in a child’s learning. Parent engagement involves supporting parents with the knowledge, skills and tools to support "hands-on" student learning at home and at school. Increasing parent engagement is a strategic initiative of the DPC over the next 2 years.

Are you happy with the social events co-ordinated by the school and P&Fs such as the Welcome Party, Mother’s and Father’s Day Mass and breakfast, Trivia Fundraising Night, and Art and Craft Show?