

A little about the St Vincent de Paul Parents Association



The Parents Association plays an important role at St Vincent's Primary School by facilitating fundraising and school community events. We help raise funds to improve the facilities available to our children to enhance their learning and make their school experience more beneficial and rewarding. We also host a number of events designed bring our community together in a social setting.

Over the past several years, funds raised by the Parents Association have been used to construct the decking area which leads to the Senior playground. This has transformed the space from a sloping asphalt ramp to a space which is regularly used by children as a play and learning area.

Funds raised have also been used to purchase a variety of technology including banks of iPads and Chromebooks which are used by children across all year levels to support their learning. More recently, Parents Association funds have been used to install new synthetic turf across the top basketball court and senior adventure playground. Current fundraising will assist with the redevelopment of the junior play area now underway.

Who makes up the Parents Association?

The Parents Association comprises executive members who hold the roles for a period of typically two years (made up of 2 co-presidents, 2 co-vice-presidents, treasurer and secretary), as well as representatives from each year level, the school principal or delegate, parish priest, general members (such as website coordinator and second-hand uniform coordinator) and any other interested parent from the school community.

The 2021 executive team includes co-presidents Cate O'Donoghue and Jacqui O'Malley, co-vice-presidents Kylie Dziedzic and Anthony McCormick, treasurer Deb Nolan and secretary Lucie O'Brien. We will shortly call for nominations for the roles of co-presidents and one vice-president as Cate, Jacqui and Kylie's terms conclude at the end of this year.

To ensure sustainable support, each year level (including Prep) is allocated an annual event to coordinate, with the full support of the PA Executive team. This includes arranging year level volunteers, booking the school space and other activities as required.

How can I get involved in the Parents Association?

All parents are welcome to attend our meetings and your input is encouraged and valued. At the start of the school year, nominations are called for year level representatives, including for Grade Prep, and you're welcome to put your hand up! Additionally, if you or your family are involved in businesses that can provide the PA support in other ways, for example, the provision of raffle prizes, food supplies for events etc, we'd love to hear from you!

Meetings and communication

The Parents Association meets eight times each year at school, which includes our annual general meeting (AGM) in Term 4. Executive positions are elected at the AGM.

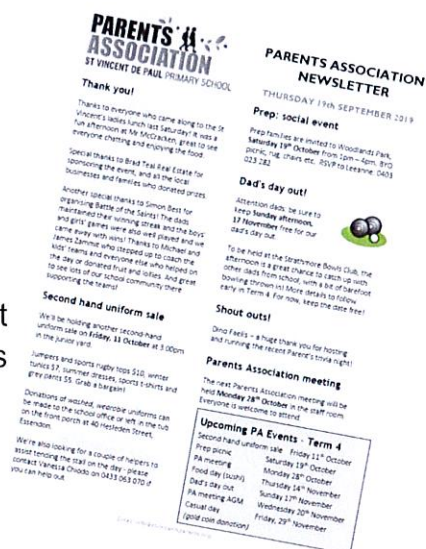
We issue a fortnightly newsletter via the SkoolBag app and you can come along to our meetings to have your say about what we do.

If you're a new parent to the school, it's a great chance to meet some other parents; if you've been in the school for a while, it's a great opportunity to get involved. Coming to our meetings doesn't mean you have to volunteer for anything or keep coming back. It's just a chance to have a chat and hear what we're all about.

A quick note on Qkr!



Qkr! by Mastercard is an app the Parents Association uses for payments for PA related activities, such as hot food days and events. Enclosed within this pack is a flyer detailing how to get the Qkr app and how to easily set it up to use. We recommend setting it up at the same time you set up SkoolBag and other school-related apps. Note you will need to know which class your child is in eg Prep Blue / Prep Green / Prep Gold when setting up your child's (basic) profile.



What events can I expect in 2022 from the Parents Association?

At the start of the year, we hold two events especially for new Prep families (COVID restrictions permitting). On the first day of school, Monday 31 January, after drop-off, come and join other Prep parents and teachers for morning tea from 8:45am – 10am. Tissues will be on hand!

In the first few weeks of school, we hold a BBQ dinner at school, giving you a chance to meet other school families and the teaching staff of St Vincent's. This welcome event is hosted by the Grade 1 parents and is always a great night.

Like everything, our events calendar has been impacted by COVID-related restrictions. In 2022 we hope to include a number of our annual events, together with a couple of special events that we hold every other year. Events include our annual Easter raffle, Mothers' and Fathers' Day breakfasts and stalls, a special kid's event such as a movie night or disco, and the ever-popular hot food day each term!

Our biennial school fete, which is our largest fundraising event, was postponed in 2020. More information will be shared in early 2022 regarding this event.

Welcome to St Vincent's from all in the Parents Association!

