The Parents and Friends Association are to be congratulated for another successful year as an integral part of St. Mary's School Community. While I appreciate it is an ongoing struggle to get people involved the Committee are to be congratulated for their persistence, determination, support, patience, sense of fun and willingness to have a go.

Once again I would like to highlight a few events which I believe demonstrate that our Parents & Friends Association is not just about fundraising but about building on and enhancing the wonderful feeling of a welcoming community we have here at St. Mary’s.

One was our Year 6 & Prep Buddy Family Night. It was great to see the Prep parents finally get to see and meet this Yr 6 child they have been hearing so much about and to meet his/her family. Our school captains did a great job organising activities which some of the parents watched while others stayed chatting with both new and already known friends. A Great Night had by all!

Our Movie Night was again a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all (except perhaps for those parents supervising upstairs or accompanying the toilet trips). Certainly those parents downstairs were having a great time with again the emphasis being on having a great time and meeting other parents not simply fundraising.

Another highlight was our ‘Arts Spectacular’ where parents and friends were able to watch a performance in the church from each class in the school as well as our school choir and then to join us on the school grounds for a picnic with the P & F selling drinks. The Art show then opened in the TRI Centre with hundreds of visitors being amazed by the quality and variety of the work on display from all our children. Again the focus was coming together as a welcoming community and having a great time.

Having said all that there is a need for fundraising if we are to maintain and build on the quality buildings, grounds and resources which we have fortunately inherited from those families that have gone before us.

A number of functions and/or activities were financially successful last year and I would like to congratulate and thank all those that were involved. These have been highlighted in both the Treasurer’s and President’s reports so I will not elaborate on any here.

I am aware of the constant struggle it is to get people to assist at school functions, be they big or small but I am convinced we need to remain optimistic and enthusiastically maintain this struggle if our school and our school community are to prosper. The Parents & Friends are integral to this welcoming, caring catholic community that is St. Mary’s.

In conclusion a very sincere thank you to all members of the Parents & Friends Committee and others who stepped in to organise and/or support particular functions/activities for their hard work and willingness to be involved over the past year. In particular I would like to congratulate and thank Garry Hills for taking on the role of President. His thoughtful and inclusive leadership was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Jessica De Bono for stepping into the Secretary’s role and fulfilling it with the minimum of fuss and the utmost efficiency.

It is with a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm that I look forward to working with the Parents & Friends Committee during 2014.

David Kelly
PRINCIPAL