President’s report to the Annual General Meeting of
St Ignatius School Parents & Friends Association
10 November 2010

Dear Parents, Friends & Staff

Today I sat in the hall, as a mum of a new prep student attending Orientation for 2011. I couldn’t help reflecting what has changed, in the five years since I sat in the same spot with my eldest child starting at St Ignatius (and the now-preppie as a newborn in my arms).

The physical changes to the school buildings in the last five years have been wonderful (new hall, new prep classrooms, new undercover area, as well as the new library and COLA and Sue Palmer field). However, for me, the most precious thing that St Ignatius School has given us in the last few years has been the building of skills and learning for my children, and the building of lifelong friendships for our whole family.

The P&F has been very proud to support the School in its building projects this year. In addition to the $58,000 donation given last year to the library renovations and the development of the Susan Palmer field and the COLA (“covered outdoor learning area”), the P&F has:

- Funded the purchase and installation of seven Interactive Whiteboards for classrooms across the school. These amazing machines are wonderful teaching tools for our children, the “digital natives” of the 21st Century! We hope to have one installed in every classroom early in 2011. At a cost of about $50,000, this has been a significant undertaking by the P&F.
- contributed $1000 to small group stimulus materials, particularly useful for the children when building works reduced playground space
- supported the visit of the Life Be In It van to the school, for all children ($2500)
- contributed $2000 to the Year 6 & 7 trip to Canberra

As a group of parents, we can look back at this year, and proudly see the difference that our contributions and fundraising efforts will make, in our school and in the education of our children.

However, the role of the P&F isn’t only to raise funds to support the school. We also aim to help build a community atmosphere for all in the St Ignatius family. Some of the wonderful community-building events hosted by the P&F this year have been:

- Goldicott Opera – this event achieved new heights of sophistication and glamour this year, and a wonderful night was had by the huge crowd in attendance, who were serenaded by the divine Bella Divas;
- Enchanted Evening Art Show – what an amazing way to christen the new COLA! What talented artists we have in our midst! This beautiful night will
be long remembered by those in attendance – again, we had a fabulous crowd of over 150 people coming together to enjoy each other’s company.

- The class co-ordinators have done an outstanding job again this year, in building the sense of community within their allocated grade. From coffee mornings to staffing Stalls, from dinner dates to plays in the park, these ladies have truly shown the spirit of St Ignatius in their crucial roles.
- The inaugural spellathon was a way in which the P&F showed our children and the school that we value education and literacy skills, and want to do our part as parents to foster these skills.
- The Care & Concern team have taken care of those in our school community who needed some help – this work was truly heartwarming, and much appreciated.
- Every week, our wonderful Tuckshop and Technotucker convenors and their volunteers, and the fabulous Uniform Shop convenor and her wonderful team of helpers, help to build our community by feeding and clothing our kids – and they do it with a smile and a laugh! Again, your efforts are so very important to our school, and we appreciate you so much.

This year, I would particularly like to thank Maree Ott who acted as P&F president during my absence in Term 2. Maree most capably represented the parent body in the school’s review and accreditation process, chaired P&F meetings and also ran a wonderful Goldicott Opera – all with grace, sophistication and a smile! Thank you also to Shelley Duffy and Toni Casey, for their contribution as the secretary and treasurer of the P&F.

Every parent in the school is a member of the P&F, and I thank you for the support that you give to the school and to the P&F. Thanks to my family, for putting up with me, to Roycelyn and her team, for their support, and to the executive and parents who attend P&F meetings, for your friendship.

God Bless, and Merry Christmas!

Kaylene Perissinotto
P&F President, 2010