



Thank you and happy Christmas from the Friends of Sacred Heart

It's been a busy year for us all and I wanted to share with you a reflective look over 2017 so we can appreciate just how much we achieved and what a great school community we have.

Our playground fundraising continued at fever pitch this year from parents, students and teachers alike.

Having started the year with some inclement weather, we were fortunate to see the Sacred Heart Wheels Nights for junior and middle syndicates happen after a initial false start.

It was an early Easter, foreshadowed by St Patrick's mufti day and the Easter hamper raffle, full of goodies donated by families and which provided a welcome addition to kick-start the year's fundraising efforts. The Sacred Heart pub quiz at the Shepherd's Arms filled a hole in the chilly winter one night in June, with car parking sales, an election quiz and guest speaker from the Parenting Place topping up the playground coffers.

Fast forward to the frenetic pace of November and December with our Ball Roll for an iPad and another incredible Christmas hamper raffle, so generously supported by families and beautifully presented by students and teachers. Our token bin at the Tory Street Warehouse gets fuller by the day so make sure you pop a few in as you pass by the check out on any of your visits there.

Throughout the year our Friends fed and watered many, from the eager explorers on their way to visit the Matariki glow worms, the frantic dancers at the school disco, new parents and the mothers, fathers and grandparents at their various liturgies throughout the year.

This year saw the commencement of the Friends of Sacred Heart Pastoral Care group with newbies keen to contribute their baking skills and those grateful to receive already adding up. Next year, we'll be seeking new recruits for our Friends Association - we're looking for two representatives from each classroom for 2018. Please keep this in mind for the New Year.

I'm delighted to say we raised a total of just under \$20,000 over the last 2 years towards our playground, which means we can now start applying for grants and topping up our base for the go-ahead on this work. The applications have already started!

Put **Sunday, 8 April 2018** in your diaries! The Friends of Sacred Heart will be hosting a **school gala** on our grounds, following Sunday mass from 11:30am. We will be seeking donations and contributions of support and time so please put your thinking cap on for how you can play your part. We want to make this a memorable and profitable event. If you have a business, service, a talent or simply time to contribute, we'd like to hear from you - I'll be accepting emails throughout the holidays so do contact me amandagregan@hotmail.com. We'll be flagging this early on in the year too so watch this space!

On that note and on behalf of the Friends of Sacred Heart, I'd like to thank the fantastic staff at Sacred Heart for their tireless work and to Bernadette for all your support and enthusiasm. Thank you too to all our families for your support and wishing you a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year.