

PARENT INVOLVEMENT, ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIP

Parents are the prime educators of their children & as such have a perfect right & responsibility to be considered partners in the education of their children at St. Martin de Porres.

It is very clear also from much international research, that the more engaged parents are in their children's education, the more enhanced will be their child's learning.

It is also clear that we start together by **building a foundation** with new parents - where parents receive & gather knowledge, develop confidence which invites further contact with the school community and development of a two way commitment (parents & school) to relationship building. This naturally leads to the development of **involvement** - where there is information sharing, explaining, clarifying & school initiated establishment of appropriate structures & processes which encourage parent activity in the school. The next step is **engagement** - where the relationship between school and parent is encouraged to evolve so that parents feel comfortable having conversations with each other, with school leadership, staff, where they listen & are listened to & where parents feel empowered to initiate activity within the school. The final stage of parents' engagement in a school is one of **partnership** - where parent action is more strategic, embedded in school development processes & school life, where interaction is collaborative & where authentic shared responsibility is practised. This final step is a great challenge for school communities.

It is not just parents helping in the classroom which improves student learning - students seeing or knowing that their parents are involved helping in the Library, on excursions, incursions, as guest speakers, as helpers or assistants, on the School Advisory Board, as a member of the Parents & Friends, organising social or fund raising activities - all of these send a message to our children that the school is important, that helping is important, that learning is important.

This importance is noted by our Catholic feeder secondary schools too - they list parent participation in the life of their catholic parish & their catholic primary school as a determining factor for students & their families being accepted into their Catholic secondary school.

Two major structures which develop the partnership between parent and school are :

a) PARISH SCHOOL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Function : To support and assist the Parish Priest, Principal and School Staff in fostering the Catholic identity of St. Martin de Porres in the formation of education.

Members are:

Fr. Nhan Le (Parish Priest)	Stefanie Harvey (Principal)
Rod Bryar (Staff Rep.)	Gabriel Veliz (Parent Rep. 2020-2022)
John Bonacci (Parent Rep. 2021-2023)	Cheryl Kelly (Parent Rep. 2021-2023) (Parent Rep. 2022-2024)
Noel Redfern (Parish Rep. 2022-2024)	Daniel Yong
Alberto Balbo	

b) ST. MARTIN'S PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P & F)

Function : To provide social opportunities to the school community & to provide financial support to St. Martin de Porres Parish school.

Committee :

President : Louisa De Lutiis
Vice President : Brandi Gigliotti
Secretary : Melissa Iazano
Ass. Sec. Crystal Carmuciano
Treasurer : Natalie Dale
Ass. Treas. : Julie O'Sullivan

Executive 2022 : Tuckshop - 'Marties Munchies' :

- Natalie Panczuk
- Helen Nguyen