

Halloween fete a huge success as school P & C raises big bucks

By Meg - Year 6

A fanfare of fun activities resulted in big bucks made for Haberfield Public School last Friday night.



Haberfield Public School's Halloween fete Photograph: P. Mussone

Thousands of people flocked to a public school in Sydney's inner west, as they held their Bi-annual Halloween Fete. Featuring a stunning disco with lights, music and costumes, the school also boasted rides, food and carnival stalls for all to enjoy.

An expanse of grassy ground, bursting with carnival rides, stalls and spirit was made possible by a group of dedicated parents known as the P&C who gave up precious time to help the school community raise funds to improve students' school experiences. With students and staff on their tails, the fete came close to cancellation after a lack of volunteers; but with heads held high, the P & C powered on, making up for these complications with pure determination.

In the time that went from weeks, to days, to hours, all parental volunteers and community support was much needed in order for the fete to be a success. "We can't have a night like that without volunteers," Jane, Secretary of the Haberfield P&C said. "You can organise it with a few people, but you can't run it with just a few people," said Jane. Community involvement is crucial when planning and executing communal events, and the stalls available would have not been up-and-running at all, specifically because the food, face painting, lucky dip and product stalls were run exclusively by community volunteers.

The night was a huge success. The school raised over \$10,000, with the funding going towards new technologies, English and mathematical resources, and the wide expanse of books provided in the school library.

Activities presented included “The Hurricane” – a fast moving, roundabout thrill ride that churned the insides of any person daring enough to take a turn; a giant slide – the classic ride for all participants young or old, short or tall. For younger students, the carnival offered classic teacup rides, carnival train rides, and festival stalls, including a catch-the-ducks and laughing clowns stalls. As an extra, online addition to the fete, the school offered the classic best dressed competition!



Haberfield students enjoyed the classic tea cup ride. Photograph: P. Mussone

As much as the parents and citizens of the community contributed, the school itself had a big role to play in the splendour of the evening. “The P&C’s goals are to do what we can to work with the school, and in particular with Halloween,” Jane said. The reasons were that “it was about raising money to go toward things maybe the school can’t afford, or need some contribution to.” Jane later said she believed they had met that goal quite well. “[For instance] we have a wish list, I know that certainly the school needs seating replaced at the moment and they’re getting quotes. It will go towards whatever the school believes is most needed, on the wish list.”

Schools all over NSW could easily benefit from the group of hardworking parents of Haberfield Public School. Not only did the families get involved, but in spare class time, the students themselves helped to paint, cut, and organise signs for the stalls of the evening. The community event would not have been successful if all aspects had not been as detailed as they

were planned and the \$10,000 would never have been raised. As Jane Morris said, “We are already planning for the next [bi-annual] carnival - there are no breaks for the P&C!”