

ISS P&C Who are we?

Stephanie Finemore – President



Hello, I'm Steph, the current President of ISS P&C. I joined the P&C this year after being on the School Council for the last couple of years. I wanted to help contribute to the school community that my two daughters (Grade 3 and Grade 6) have enjoyed so much. In my time on both the Council and the P&C, I have really enjoyed the opportunity to get to know staff and other parents in our large school community better. It is great to contribute in a small way to the services many families benefit from (OSHC, tuckshop and uniform shop) and to better understand what is going in both in our school and the wider community.

Shelley Wilkinson – ISS P&C Secretary



Hello, I have a few roles with my 'day job' hat on - dietitian, researcher, health service re-designer. Each is complementary but gives me a creative and academic outlet that's very rewarding. I have a child in Grade 3. Our kids thrive when we are involved in their school lives. Connecting with their community gives them a sense of belonging, boosts their confidence and helps to develop their social skills. Many studies and reports show that family engagement in schools positively affects student achievement, improves parent-teacher and teacher-student relationships, and the overall school environment.

I also like the quote below from Brene Brown:

"If you are not in the arena getting your ass kicked on occasion, I am not interested in or open to your feedback. There are a million cheap seats in the world today filled with people who will never be brave with their own lives, but will spend every ounce of energy they have hurling advice and judgement at those of us trying to dare greatly. Their only contributions are criticism, cynicism, and fear-mongering. If you're criticizing from a place where you're not also putting yourself on the line, I'm not interested in your feedback."

I thank all the volunteer parents who have given their time on various school activities. I encourage more to do so. It's very rewarding and our kids love to see us getting involved.

Sally Huynh – ISS Treasurer



Hello, I work in Finance. My eldest daughter graduated from year 6 in 2023 and my son is in year 4. I joined the P&C, just to give back a little for what this wonderful school has and is still doing for my children. My daughter has special needs, and she was warmly welcomed at the school. The care and understanding we have received has been incredible. We are very grateful. We all have busy lives, be it career, raising a family or both. If we all do a little, it will surely make a big impact for our children, school and community.

Luciana Massi – Vice-President ISS Environment and Sustainability



Hello, I work as a public health researcher focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, babies and families' health and wellbeing. I love occasionally travelling as part of my role and getting to visit communities around Queensland and further afield. I have one child in year 5. I remember when my son was in Prep, the P&C President at the time was encouraging parents to join the P&C and said how much our children would love to see us involved in the school community and activities. I have been a volunteer throughout the years in various events and have always enjoyed meeting other parents and teachers. Showing up, having a say and taking part in creating a harmonious and dedicated school community for our children is my continuing motivation to be part of the P&C.

Every Friday morning at 8am our Litter Buster crew of students meet at Singleton Oval. If your child/ren are interested, please email secretary@isspandc.org.au.

Volunteer parents and family members are always needed for events to run smoothly, especially in a school the size of ours... do put your hand up and get involved even if you haven't done it before. It's a fun, friendly experience and a positive influence on our kids .

Bridgette Basnajt – Vice-President ISS Engagement and Communications



Hello, I have two children at ISS- one in Grade 5 and the other in Grade 3. They keep me on my toes and I wouldn't have it any other way. I am also a full-time student (studying Psychology), I train in boxing and muay-thai and find my zen with yoga. My husband Sunjay is my anchor who supports me in all that I do. I have lived in India, the Philippines, Singapore, and our family now calls Australia home. Each place has left its mark on me, shaping my worldview and enriching my cross-cultural experiences. Allow me to share this quote with you.

"Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other" – David Spangler.

I came across this quote earlier this year and it really hit home for me. I realised I was in proximity when it came to engaging with the ISS school community. The same community that is having and will continue to have a large impact on the socio-psychological development of my children. I decided I would commit my time and be open to other experiences, to somehow positively influence the environment for not just my children but all ISS children and the wider ISS school community. I was channeling my need for organisation and having a strategic approach in all that I do when I suggested we should have a dedicated Engagement Team in the P&C. This was universally accepted and I took on this portfolio with pleasure. My responsibilities include facilitating effective communication channels, organizing events, and ensuring that everyone stays informed about school activities and initiatives.

It really fills my cup to hear my children say things like - "Mum, I was so happy to see you helping at my athletics carnival", "Thank you for signing us up for the school Working Bee, I had so much fun", "You met with Mrs.Spanner and Mrs Howkins. They know you! They listen to you!!" They're fascinated to hear how much I enjoy working with the School Leadership team and the School Culture Working Group.

If you'd like to get involved with the P&C, there are many initiatives you can choose from. Keep a look out for whatsapp messages from your parent reps and the [ISS P&C Facebook page](#) for volunteering opportunities. You could make a huge difference in the lives of other volunteering parents and shape the experiences of our children at school.

Shabnam Zamani – Vice-President ISS Engagement and Communications



Hello, I am an Emergency Physiotherapy Practitioner. I work in a couple of busy public Emergency Departments and help reduce the wait time for patients who present with simple fractures, sprains and strains and other simple musculoskeletal injuries.

I have one child in Grade 3 at school. The kids love it when their parents are involved at the school. This reinforces the sense of belonging and helps them grow up to be involved in their community later in life. I also like the quote from Brene Brown, highlighted by Shelley above.

I thank all parents who volunteer their time for various activities.

Miriam Stewart – ISS Swim Club Coordinator



Hello I'm Miriam! Both of my children have been at ISS since prep - my daughter is now in high school and my son is in Year 4. We have been part of the school community for over 8 years now! I have loved connecting with other families and the school through various volunteer roles both in the classroom and at social events.

I officially joined the P&C 18 months ago when I was given the opportunity to take on the role of the P&C Friday Night Swimming Club coordinator at the start of 2023. Being able to help bring back Term 1 and Term 4 Friday night club nights for our local community has been so rewarding. Some of my best childhood memories include being part of my own school swimming club. It is wonderful to see our ISS club growing again and our local families enjoying this opportunity. It has been inspiring to see our children cheering each other on while having fun and their parents enjoying the opportunity to both engage with other families as well as demonstrate their generosity in helping out with running the barbeque stall and recording timings for our swimmers on the night.

We have diverse and wonderful families in our school community and by coming together through P&C events we can help shape our experiences and create lasting memories at the school for ourselves and importantly for our children.

Matt Hade – ISS Magazine Editor



I have three children at ISS (Prep, Year 4 and Year 6). Considering I work in education, marketing and communications. I joined the P&C to bring my publishing experience to the cherished ISS magazine yearbook. I have been working with teachers and parents, since 2020 and we've made improvements to the design, content collection and structure of the magazine. We have transformed an already lovely book into a professional quality product that is also simpler to produce for the next generation of parent magazine editors. My kids love reading every issue of the magazine and do so over and over. My tip is to buy a few copies so every child has their own! If you are a parent with photography, editing or publications management experience, your skills will be greatly appreciated to keep the ISS magazine in production in future years.