

## Canteen Volunteer issues August 2016

The canteen is running at a very healthy profit, after a few years of running at a loss or minimal profit. This has been due to numerous reasons that include, new staffing, change of menu, fresher and healthier food options and alot more on site cooking.

To ensure the smooth running of this canteen, not only do we need to have regular, well trained paid staff but daily volunteers to help as well. The current problem which has been highlighted is the constant lack of volunteers, which has seriously dropped in recent months. Canteen numbers are at an all-time high, with more families in the school using the canteen facilities than ever before, however the number of families volunteering is lower than ever before.

To combat the lack of number of volunteers the P & C canteen team have held a few meetings to try and brainstorm ideas on increasing volunteer numbers.

These are the ideas that were suggested:

- The canteen only runs three days a week..please note we are the only school in the local area that runs a 5 day a week canteen
- Volunteers get a free lunch for their children that day and we subsidise this by increasing the price of drinks from \$1.80 to \$2.00. In addition to having stickers for kids whose parents are on the canteen saying things like "my mum is on the canteen today"
- Hand over the running of the canteen from the P & C to the school..profits will be limited
- P & C pays more staff and reduces number of volunteers needed.. therefore affecting profit margin
- Compulsory volunteering....if families use the canteen they are required to volunteer in the canteen every term. For full time working parents there are a number of jobs that can be undertaken in the evening eg stocktake etc...Please note this is a strategy that a Artarmon Public School undertakes, and they have a much higher proportion of full time working parents. Families must pay a levy if they do not volunteer once a term.

It was agreed that the above highlighted suggestion would be our first attempt at increasing numbers, however if anyone else has other ideas the canteen would fully appreciate ideas. They can be emailed to me on [ellenturchini@bigpond.com](mailto:ellenturchini@bigpond.com)