MINUTES

Meeting: Term 1 Meeting
Date: Tuesday 18 February 2014
Time: 9.00am to 10.00am
Location: Preparatory School Library

DETAILS

1.0 WELCOME BY GROUP LEADERS

Priscilla Macpherson and Michelle Braysich,

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES


By invitation: Karen Ahearn, Sally Egan, Vicki Waters, Greer Dokmanovic

Apologies: None

CHAPLAIN’S PRESENTATION - Mrs Greer Dokmanovic

Although there are two Chaplains across the whole College, Pastor Greer Dokmanovic will now be mainly responsible for Kindergarten to Year 6, while Reverend Lorenzo Rodriguez Torres will oversee Secondary School. Preparatory School Chapel will be held for the Preparatory School once a fortnight in the Performing Arts Area, and class teachers will be responsible for the weekly religious education lesson. Please feel free to approach either Chaplain at any time for assistance.

3.0 PERSONALISED LEARNING GOALS PRESENTATION - Mrs Sally Egan, Director of Improvement Strategy

Sally Egan is responsible for overseeing and implementing the College 2020 vision. Ensuring the College implements a personalised education strategy is a key focus area for 2014. By the end of 2020 a tracking system should be in place for each girl to help her develop personalised learning goals and track her progress is attaining those goals. The research of Carol Dweck has been very influential in the development of this initiative (see Carol Dweck’s book- Fixed and Growth Mindsets). She states “the hallmark of successful individuals is that they love learning, they value effort, and they persist in the face of obstacles.”
Starting in 2014, the girls are each being asked to reflect on their learning and identify strengths and areas for improvement. This will lead to the establishment of personalised goals which will be recorded in their school diaries by Week 5 (these may be drawn by Kindergarten girls). These goals will usually last for the term however may be achieved sooner or may take longer to achieve. The girls will be asked to make these goals specific, measurable and realistic. On the facing page to the goal setting area within the diaries for each term, each student will record what worked well and what they would do differently in setting these goals for the following term.

5.0 PRINCIPALS’ PRESENTATION - Mrs Vicki Waters

Mrs Waters spoke about the change in learning environments within the College driven by the College 2020 vision. This is evident in the Preparatory School classrooms, as their walls have been opened up to allow greater integration with the common areas within each Year group. The focus is now more on optimal learning environments rather than teaching, which allows greater flexibility and adaptability within each Year group. The different teaching styles and interests of each teacher can now benefit the whole Year group as there is far greater interaction between the three classes.

Clare Smith is planning on returning in Term 2 after recovering from her injury.

The main College project is the imminent aquatic/fitness/car park area. The Council is due to sign off in March, then the project will go ahead to tender. The College is undertaking a large loan to complete this project that will take 25 years to pay off. Fund raising ideas to contribute to this project and lessen the loan are welcomed. The project may commence in June/July and should be completed within 18 months.

As an ongoing priority, the College continues to invest in the professional development of teachers to help students take control of their own learning. The College has introduced more reflective learning this year to help students recognise and develop their areas of weakness as well as retain their areas of strength.

6.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting

   Moved: Zeina Nachar
   Seconded: Sonika Lotter

7.0 HEAD OF PREPARATORY SCHOOL’S PRESENTATION - Mrs Karen Ahearn

The Preparatory School this year has introduced a more connected curriculum with common themes running through various subjects. There is a ‘big question’ that forms the broad subject focus for each term and then lots of ‘small questions’ that feed off that.

The ‘big question’ for Kindergarten this term is ‘What’s Alive? Teachers first pose the big question, which is directed by the curriculum that the school needs to deliver as set by the Board of Studies. The exploration of this question is then led by the girls’ natural interests. For example, some are asking questions about the birds they see in the playground; others prefer to learn about insects. Visual arts will also be focused on animals and plants with connections formed to the Mathematics curriculum.
Year 1 will be looking at ‘what makes our world change?’ They have recently been studying clouds and visited the Secondary School science laboratories. In Art they have made pictures of clouds using cotton wool, and greatly enjoyed their visit to the observatory.

The Preparatory School Library will be opened at different times in addition to each class library session to allow girls to extend their knowledge in these areas of learning.

Please continue checking your daughter’s diary for sticky labels that provide additional information for the week.

*Windows Into Learning Sessions* will continue to be held this year to provide parents with an insight into how the girls are learning in the classroom. This term Year 1 parents will be invited to a spelling session and Year 2 parents to a Mathematics session. All parents are very welcome.

### 8.0 TREASURER OR FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

PSPG currently has a banked surplus of $13,755.00. There appears to be an excess of approximately $3,000.00 which will be discussed with the College Finance department. More information will be presented at the next meeting.

### 9.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

The PPA Icebreaker is on Friday 21 February on Gloucester Lawn all parents are invited.

Preparatory School Swimming Carnival - thank you to those parents who have offered help with providing food and manning the stall on the day.

Susan and Julie are convening ‘Decorate a Bunny’ on Tuesday April 8.

There will be a new Term 2 event, the Preparatory School Parent Cocktail Party, to be held on College grounds. Date not yet determined.

The Father Daughter Dinner will be held on College grounds on Friday 30 May.

### 10.0 OTHER BUSINESS

There is a babysitter register that is being compiled by Sue Tompkins. Willing Year 10 and Year 11 *Pymble* girls submit their contact details to this register, which allows you to contact Sue for the name of babysitter in your local area. The rate of pay and other details are to be negotiated by the family requiring the babysitter.

Please input or update your contact details on the school website under ‘online forms’ and then parent lists. This list can only be accessed by other parents in your Year group, and is a safe way to ensure parents have the ability to contact each other when needed.

Each year there is a Care and Support register to provide meals and/or transport to/from school home for *Pymble* families who find themselves in crisis and in need of support. Those registered are generally only asked to help a few times a year at the most. If you are happy to be on this register, please contact Priscilla Macpherson, or Michelle Braysich.

### 11.0 MEETING CLOSE 10.00am