



# **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College Kensington Parents and Friends Association Term 1 Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 28th February 2017**

**Welcome** Jenny Muscat, President.

**Prayer** Jenny Muscat

**Apologies** 1 only - Katrina Picthall

**Attending:** Sheila Motais, Matias Otero, Elizabeth Leal, Linda Sweet, Helen Murphy, Maria Tzortzis, Nena Lambousis, Jo Shepherd, Lauren Duff, Claire Pirola, Cathy Moses, Jenny Muscat, Dee Timms, Cathy Anderson, Fionnula Torrissi, Christina Curry, Emma Trassari, Cate Jones, Dara Highway, Angela D Angelo (AP), Jenny Fowler (Principal)

## **Review of Previous Minutes**

- In Correspondence Section: Change Emma Trassari's name to Fionnula Torrissi, Fionnula sent the letter not Emma.
- Minutes approved by Linda Sweet and Seconded by Fionnula Torrissi

**Correspondence received** Claire Pirola, Secretary

Fundraising Leaflets, Career Options Flyer (given to Principal for School)

**President's Report** Jenny Muscat, President.

- To view full report see president report on school website
- Note Key Dates coming up:
  - P&F Meetings for 2017- 3 May, 26 July and 18 October.
  - 8 March: Twilight Open Day.
  - 8 September: OLSH Feast
- Jenny explained the role of the P&F.
- Welcomed new and old parents.
- Note: P&F does NOT do any fund raising.

## Treasurer's Report Emma Trassari, Treasurer

- Emma explained what is in the report. As we do not fund raise there is only a small money account like a petty cash account. School manages P&F levy for us.
- To view report see Treasurer Report on school website
- Accepted by Linda Sweet and Seconded by Elizabeth Leal

## Principal's Report Jenny Fowler, OLSH Principal

To view report see Principal Report on school website

- **Main points:**
  - **Special welcome** to new parents and old.
  - Explained **value of this P&F forum for school and parents and students working together**. Also noted this forum has lots of operational things plus it's an opportunity to hear things about the school and our daughter learning through what the school is doing.
  - If you have anything about your own child or personal issue to raise with the school, or a specific complaint about the school, please see Principal or Assistant Principal another time. **THE P&F is not the forum to raise such issues.**
  - **Welcome Angela - Assistant Principal (AP)**. Angela is going overseas soon to advance her work on Mindset growth in schools.)
  - **Welcome new staff** - see principal report for new staff
  - Reflected on **good results from HSC** last year.
  - **Goal at OLSH is to pursue excellence** - we are about optimising growth in girls. Not the highest mark but every student to grow in their learning is what the school pursues.
  - Have had **High Achievers came back to speak** with students and to staff. They gave advice to staff about what worked well or not for them as students. One issue was they wanted more preparation for actual exams. So now school has introduced assessment blocks from 7-12 to implement this feedback.

Year 7 will have this later as Term 1 is transition. Year 8, 9 and 10 will have assessment block when they sit exams or assessment during a week. Aim is to create experience of sitting in rows for the exams to build their academic resilience- so it's less intimidating later for them
  - **OLSH Open day** - changed this year. Used to be a day thing which had all primary feeders attend with public schools on same day. Found it was too many for the site. Had to keep yr. 12 at home to study last year and send yr. 9 on walkathon etc. So consulted and changed it to a twilight model. So students now finish school early - except students involved in the open day and they stay there to help. This also meant more working parents could come along with them as its arvo rather than just the students attending through their schools. Principal will get feedback from this year to see if this is an improvement.

Invitation to all parents to assist to cook sausages etc and help out.  
Love to have you there.

- **Recent work and development** - see Principal report
- **Library will have air con** thanks to \$\$ from parents levy through P&F.
- **First student immersion** occurring this year to Bathurst Island. More expressed interest so going thru a selection process. 2 staff will attend also to build their capacity as teachers through the experience
- Established **Literacy Network team** - staff from all faculties are working together to be like train the trainers. This is a target area of focus for OLSH
- Introduces a **new common literacy marking criteria** - this means all staff will mark it consistently. Rather than their own style eg: some underline, others write feedback, others cross things out etc - so now all teachers will use same technique or code across the school. Trialling this this year and will review feedback from students and teachers.
- **Feedback and feedforward** - is a new technique to give feedback to students to assist them to grow. Looking at more consistency and examples in the feedback.
- Introducing this year **yr 12 SMART school lessons**. Yr 12 former students feedback needing assistance to know how best to learn. So, early in this year someone meets with them and helps them work out what they need to do to develop practical useful strategies and follow up with them. Eg: next week is a writing workshop about creative writing for success - and gives them some skills
- Focus on **wellbeing and pastoral care in this year is focussed on resilience**. Dr Judith Locke is coming for students and trying to get her for next P&F meeting.
- School now has a **show year and alternative year is the mission night**. Listened to feedback and realised we have great venue at the school for the show with lighting and sound so doing this at the school now. Show cases Dance, Drama, Music and Performing Arts - collaborating with TAS faculty and hospitality involved. Will be very alive and will be different to other years. Aim to also do a school musical in future years. Principal will listen to feedback on how this year goes for the future.

#### Assistant Principal input:

- **Thanked parents** for welcoming her.
- **Growth Mindset** means = every child can excel. Looks at focus, setting goals and practice for students. Looks at neuro pathways - acknowledging that we can grow intelligence. Carol Dweck founded this through her research. Growth Mindset found that students who were told they could grow their brains did better than students who were not told this. So we need to spread this message.
- AP also said that School would also like an **Overarching Wellbeing policy** - to know what they can do to enhance wellbeing in students. So much anxiety around for children these days. AP is focussing on this also. This is for staff and students.
- Also is focussing on a **uniform blitz** as they believe that a school that has a good grooming and clear expectations is best for a learning environment for the students.

## General Business:

- **Guest Speaker Ideas** required for parents through the P&F meetings. Please send any suggestions to info@school email address to the attention of the P&F.
- A **Vote of Support** was raised from the parents to the School for the great work undertaken during the school holidays to improve access and upgrade facilities.
- **Weight of School Bags** - Is constantly raised as an issue and work is necessary to improve this where possible or document the status so it does not keep coming up. A steering group will be raised to analyse this further in a practical way. Claire Pirola to organise a steering group.
- **Engagement of Parents and carers** discussed. View was that we wanted to explore new ways to promote the P&F and engage more diversity of parents. Build on what is there already. Working group to consider this to be sourced from parent email list of those attending. Claire Pirola will arrange working group to feedback first ideas at next meeting.
- Note of Thanks for **New Swimming Carnival arrangements** in past 2 years and how it engages more students overall. However some parents felt for those competitive swimmers it would be appreciated if they were given a chance to perform in front of the whole school rather than performing before the rest of the school attends. It was noted that the current arrangements arose from feedback that this was a preferred way. However, principal listens to all feedback and will consider these competing views and issues.
- Question raised about the **reno of one set of toilets** as they are fairly bad and need work. Principal confirmed this is a priority need and on their agenda to have completed
- **Question asked about if parents can get access to the photos taken by the school** and how can those photos been made available. At the moment they are used by the school in show casing, school mag only. Principal will get further advice on this.
- In May this year the **AP role will be advertised** for a substantive AP role.
- **The P&F Docs will go on the website** - has not happened yet but can now be put up. So all minutes, agenda and other relevant items can go up there.
- **Parent portal function** - at another school the child's calendar syncs to the parent's calendar and also has list of assessment. Question asked is this possible? Is very helpful tool for parents. Principal agreed to look into this.
- **Parent Tip** - Suggestion given by a parent for new parents at Parent teacher meetings - when you go to book teachers in look at the alphabetic list so you don't have to go up and down stairs - because teachers sit in alphabetical order.
- For new agenda items please put it into info line to go on next meeting

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Next Meeting is 3rd May

NB: Any new agenda items to put sent through the OLSH info email line to the attention of the P&F.

**Thank you all for attending.**

**Please bring another parent or carer to the next meeting**