

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College

Parents and Friends Meeting Minutes

Term 3 - 8 August 2018

Present at the Meeting: Ms Jenny Fowler, Emma Trassari, Michelle Man, Fionnuala Torrisi, Caren Matthews-Lane, Elizabeth Leal, Helen Murphy, Jenny Muscat, Sonya Le Huray, Neisha Licika, Phillipa Stanley, Cathy Anderson

Apologies: Claire Pirola, Janet Cairncross

Minutes of Term 2 Meeting 9 May 2018: Confirmation without amendment. Accepted by Emma, seconded by Helen

Business Arising: None

Bathurst Island Trip:

Mr Brendan Sharpley (Leader of Teaching Administration) and 5 of the Year 11 girls who attended the Bathurst Island trip, gave a slide presentation and talk about their experiences. They reported that it was an amazing experience, the people there were very friendly and welcoming and they learned about the culture. They visited the local art centre which employs disabled artists, and played with the local children. Although the people there face hardship, they are a close community and they are happy. They discovered some of the work done by Sister Anne, an OLSH Sister, now in her 80's who has been there since her 20's. Her work there has included recording the local language and Dreamtime stories and preserving these in the museum. Sister Anne is very connected with the people there and knows all of their 1500 names.

The girls reported that gambling is a major social event each Centre Link pay day when the whole community gets involved with this from the elderly to the very young. School attendance is extremely poor with children receiving a certificate if they attend for five days in a week. Some children had only attended school for 13 days up to May whilst others had not attended at all. Neglect by parents is another issue, with the school taking on the responsibility for ensuring children brush their teeth at home because many don't do this at home. Whilst there, the girls visited the Nursing Home and the elderly residents were very excited to see them as sadly, they do not receive many visitors.

The experience on Bathurst Island made the visiting girls appreciate their own situation more. They commented that it was a rewarding experience which they will never forget and they would love to go back and do volunteer work.

Mr Sharpley commented that the girls were very independent, flexible and well prepared during the trip. They purchased groceries in Darwin where items are cheaper, prior to a challenging 3 hour ferry trip to Bathurst Island where they cooked for the group. He was impressed by how well they interacted with the locals, old and the young.

There are two wooden carvings in the OLSH school foyer which were brought back from Bathurst Island.

College Literacy Vision:

Ms Michele Bevan (Leader of Learning - Literacy) provided a draft of the Vision statement for Literacy which has been produced by staff and students, and she asked for feedback from parents. Jenny Muscat suggested inclusion of a statement about students being independent learners who want to contribute to their own learning and take ownership of it.

Ms Bevan stated that the staff are dedicated to improving their own literacy, particularly technical language, and passing this on to the girls. Some gifted and talented students in the juniors suggested making imovies which focus on grammar, and sharing these with the school. After initially approaching Ms Bevan about this, they produced a formal proposal which was reviewed and accepted by Ms Fowler. The students held meetings, produced minutes, and gained the active participation of peers. They have since produced several imovies, one of which was titled "The Student Walks to School". This has been shown to the school and it was shown at the P&F meeting. This group of students, known as "The Litty Committee" initially worked with Ms Economou, then with Ms Bevan. When the girls are in Year 11, they will mentor Year 10 students to take over from them.

OLSH students have also produced the first ever student magazine. Year 12 students will receive a digital copy of this.

Year 12 students who are struggling with comprehension and written expression are being supported by having extra help on Friday afternoons.

President's Report:

Approximately \$10 000 was raised at the OLSH Trivia night. The year 12 girls who organised it did a great job, as did the younger SRC members who sold drinks and snacks. It was good to see so many girls there. Ms Fowler commented that she would have liked to have seen more parents present.

Dr Toula Tsovolos gave a talk in June on Strategies to Maximise Your HSC. A parent at the meeting commented that she had not received a copy of the slides from the talk and the coverage in the newsletter was limited. Cathy stated that she had sent three pages of comprehensive notes from the talk to the school and that this could be emailed to her. Ms Fowler mentioned that she had sent links to students. Cathy will resend the documents to the P&F to be emailed.

At the Term 4 P&F meeting the new committee members will be elected. Ex students will give something to the current year 12's to wish them well.

Good luck to families of girls doing the Trials.

There will be a Father's Day Mass at 8am on Friday 31 August 2018.

OLSH Fest is on 7 September with a sausage sizzle and a show.

Treasurer's Report:

Helen reported that the petty cash bank balance is \$5450.36 which includes \$1.36 interest.

Principal's Report:

Ms Caletti has been welcomed back from maternity leave. Congratulations to Mr Mario Phasie who now has a permanent position as French teacher at the school.

There has been a large amount of work done recently around the school. This includes House Crests, benches under the tree, pest control, frosting on glass dividing rooms in the upper level of the Hartzler Centre, security gates in the library, rendering and painting the driveway, emergency evacuation plans, synthetic grass at the front of the school and under the Wingara Fig Tree.

The trip to Bathurst Island has taken place. Three girls will be going to World Youth Day in January. There is a youth group at the St Joseph's Parish at Rosebery. Many people attended the Mothers' Day Mass in May. Staff had a great Staff Spirituality Day including a visit to Auburn Mosque. The OLSH Ed Talk by Dr Tsovolos has taken place. There was a Professional Learning Day led by Jenny Dove on 30 May 2018 about using data to inform student learning.

Staff will undertake Gifted and Talented Education training on line. OLSH had a successful debating season with Year 11 making it into the grand final. It was pleasing to see students using knowledge gained in a variety of subjects during the debates. There was a great turnout for the Academic Awards ceremony. The subject preference process for Year 8's and 10's is taking place. Themes for assemblies come from Heart Matters. There will be a talk on cyber safety and sexting on 28 August 2018.

Ms Fowler has completed her small group lunches with Year 12's giving them some 1:1 time and she enjoyed hearing their thoughts . She asked them two questions: What advice would you give yourself if you were in Year 7 again?, and What suggestions do you have for improving the school? Responses from the girls included don't worry about small things; talk to more people; work harder in earlier years, and respect the teachers more. Ms Fowler plans to get Year 7 and Year 12 together to talk to each other.

There are strong Year 7 enrolments for 2019 and 2020. There will be a selective stream starting in 2019. Students for this class of 27-30 girls will be selected based on a variety of means including tests on Open/Orientation Day, Orwell and Naplan tests, school reports and interviews. A group of teachers will discuss the results and form the class.

General Business: Year Group Social Event for Parents:

One parent mentioned there is a facebook page at Marcellin which can be used to advertise not only academic issues but also social functions. An administrator oversees it and it is a helpful means of connecting year groups.

Other ideas included having class parents formed at the early Year 7 parent meeting or having a social coordinator. It was noted that some other schools have Mother/Daughter and family dinners.

Jenny raised the issue of disbanding the P&F due to low numbers of attendees, or trialling not having it for a year, but still having parents to organise events. Due to time constraints this issue will need further discussion at another meeting.

A parent questioned why senior students don't do sport, as some girls miss it. It was mentioned that Year 12's are doing a rotation which includes sport.

Meeting Closed: 8.30pm

Next Meeting: 7pm 24 October 2018 in the library.