



Pymble Ladies' College Junior School Parent Group (JSPG)

Date: Thursday 27 February 2020

Location: Junior School Library

Time: 8.45 am to 9.45 am

Chairs: Kate Hart, Monika Surana, Christel Vigne

1.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendees: Elizabeth Toh, Shiva Rich, Sarah Fisher, Susan Lakeman, Bianca Orena Barlin, Heidi Elliott, Danielle Scott, Jayjay Jia, Lalanya Waterhouse, Ray, Suzana Macolmo, Priscilla Macpherson, Joti Lidder, Stephanie Pickford, Louise Thomas, Joan Finn, Ning Cao, Christel Vigne, Monika Surana, Kate Hart, Julie Xie

By invitation: Mrs Kate Brown, Ms Lamia Rockwell

Apologies: Belinda Gerreyn, Himashini Weeraratne, Dr Payal Mukherjee, Louise Woodall, Malini Srivastava

2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Moved: Elizabeth Toh

Seconded: Priscilla Macpherson

3.0 WELCOME BY GROUP LEADERS

Christel, Monika and Kate welcomed all the parents and invited guests to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Parents were also invited to remain after the meeting for morning tea.

4.0 GROUP LEADERS' REPORT

Kate gave a brief update on the first event of the term, the Welcome Morning Tea at Avondale Golf Club, which was a lovely event with approximately 90 people attending. She also mentioned the next event, which will be Pedal Your Own Smoothie, with Louise Woodall and Sarah Fisher convening. This is a charity for the families damaged by bushfires, if you do want to help, please contact Sarah Fisher, and there will be a sign-up sheet as well.

The next event is Family Fun day on 4 April – will be convened by Christel and Araz Wallbank, still in the process of finding convenors for different stalls.

Shout out for future event volunteers:

- Athletics Carnival Food Stall
- Father-Daughter / Parent-Daughter Dance
- Swimming Carnival Stall
- Garden Party Stalls
- Jeans for Genes Day Barbecue

Interested volunteers are asked to contact the JSPG group leaders.



5.0 INTRODUCTION OF 2020 COMMITTEE, YEAR CO-ORDINATORS AND CLASS PARENTS

Leaders Kate Hart, Monika Surana, Christel Vigne

Treasurer Elizabeth Toh

Record Keeper Julie Xie

Care and Support Kristen Bond

Year 6 Co-ordinator Malini Srivastava

Year 5 Co-ordinator Sarah Fisher and Louisa Woodall

Year 4 Co-ordinator Dr Payal Mukherjee and Himashini Weeraratne

Year 3 Co-ordinator Belinda Gerreyn and Stephanie Pickford

CLASS PARENTS

Year 3

3D Kirsten King and Nia Luxton

3C Karen Landy

3L Louise Thomas

3W Annabel Blaiklok and Joti Lidder

Year 4

4W Pada Gortan

4J Kirsten Bond

4M Sarah Martin

4S TBA

Year 5

5R Darren Handley-Greaves and Ray Waterhouse

5C Shiva Rich and Annabel Blaiklok

5B Samantha Edwards

5M Susan Lakeman

5G Sylphia Wang and Andrey Xuchen

5T Kath Pennington and Sue O'Sullivan

Year 6

6L Louise Holt

6D Vinday Chandra

6M Sharon Solomons

6A Meagan Louise

6R Shanti Smith

6T Poala Gortan and Suzana Macalino



6.0 FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Elizabeth delivered the following information: At the end of last year, we had a balance of \$44,882; since then we had some more funds from the morning tea, but also some expenses for the smoothie day, so we ended up with a balance of \$44,294.

There were two donations from last year; one was Jeans for Genes day, which totalled about \$2,500. The other one was from JSPG donation to the Junior School, which was about \$20,000. This leaves JSPG with a healthy balance of \$21,769.

7.0 HEAD OF PPA PRESENTATION – UPCOMING EVENTS

Priscilla McPherson talked about the following points:

Last PPA event – Icebreaker was well supported; she thanked everyone for wearing colors

New parents' lunch will be in March and everybody who is new to the school should receive an invitation for that and anyone with a daughter in Year 7 also gets to go

Garden Party in September: encouraged everyone to get involved and support the event

Trivia Night: upcoming PPA fundraising event around mid-year.

8.0 HEAD OF SCHOOLS' PRESENTATION

Mrs Kate Brown welcomed all the parents to the meeting and thanked everyone for supporting the girls

Mrs Brown talked about kindness. She picked kindness because though it is a very simple human trait, it is often overlooked in the business of our world. The guiding principle is very simple – do to others as you would want others to do to you. We want the girls to be kind with all their words, actions and thoughts.

She wanted us to focus on three things:

- Be kind to others
- Be kind to the environment
- Be kind to themselves – girls often are kind to others but forget to be kind to themselves, so this is a big focus

The Kindness Captain badges are coming – deliberately designed special badges for *Pymble* girls. The Captains really wanted to sprinkle kindness across the school and to the world. They had a lot of excellent ideas:

- Kindness boxes – pull out the name of the girl in the class and write a message of kindness to that girl at the end of the week
- Kindness Week – national anti-bullying is coming up; want to focus on being kind and design some fun activities to help everyone understand the joy by giving
- Hand-paint some kindness rocks – put around in the Junior School; the metaphor is that kindness is everywhere, even in the most unexpected places
- Create a video about what kindness means to the

Even though everybody may have a bad day, we can choose how we want to show up and how we treat others.

Another big focus is teaching the girls to learn unstructured play. It's not free time nor wasted time. Unstructured play is deliberately designed to be unstructured – the girls learn through unstructured play at their own pace. It's a powerful tool that enables them to find out and develop the skills they need in this world. Corporates are saying they need graduates to effectively communicate, to be problem solve, to negotiate, to be prepared to take risks, to think, to be creative.



All these skills can be developed through unstructured play – Year 3 launched it last week while the rest of us were on camp. The teachers were not allowed to be teachers and go and help – they had to stay back and see what the girls can do. There was some hesitancy among the girls but that's what we need to do – to encourage girls to take the leap forward. And within a few minutes the girls were totally immersed – they had restaurants, they had theatres with own impromptu performances, they had airplanes made out of milk crates, they even had a hot stone day spa!

The play moved and they re-negotiated when someone wanted to join. It was a rich day and the teachers saw how the girls were individually growing – there was a Year 3 girl who came back with the feedback saying: "I felt free to learn". And Mrs Brown said as a teacher she felt that was gold and was what a teacher wanted to hear.

Mrs Brown also flagged the following program:

Firstly, she thanked the generous donation from JSPG and said much of the funds went to teacher training, which brought out a program that encouraged self-care and positive wellbeing. It's ten minutes three times a week to stop and reflect; to think about themselves and look after themselves. It's an online program that is teacher facilitated, but the girls also have the chance to engage with it on an individual level. It teaches critical self-reflection and focuses on four components: mind, time, space, individual mindfulness and everyone.

And it's purposefully designed so it's different across grade levels and thus age-appropriate. We are starting later the term which is around the notion of kindness as a trail and the official program starts next term. We want to girls to know they are truly loved and really valued for the person they are. We also want to challenge them and make they think about the world around.

9.0 CARE CONTINUUM

Dean of Students Lamia Rockwell gave updates about the work on Wellbeing. However, she said we will be re-wording the word 'Wellbeing' to 'Care Continuum'. The day-to-day life is not always perfect – there are always ups and downs, thus the reason for changing the word is because we want to build the care from Kindergarten to Year 12; we want this to be continued.

There are 40 people in her team working on 5 things. Last year they had girls from Year 5 and 6 coming to them proposing plans – what items should be included in care continuum? And currently, the five things are:

- Healthy lifestyles – about the mind and body
- Community service – self-care as well as looking around and see what we could provide to the community
- Service and values
- Student voice and leadership
- Curriculum

Three key values she envisioned for the girls in the future are empathy, agility, global perspective. Creativity is also highlighted and it can be fostered through unstructured play.

With each thing they try to link to academic – what research has been done? External academics will be invited to be critique to the program, including experts and leaders from AIS and Elevation Company.

10.0 QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

A question was raised during the meeting in regard to the low numbers of attendees at the JSPG morning tea at Avondale. Thinking about changing to a less formal arrangement so it can be after drop-off and at school.

Meredith let us know that in the Senior School they're done so and they found they had greater numbers and we can certainly bring that down to the Junior School. Another suggestion was to provide Year Co-ordinators with names of attendees for their year so they can follow up and make sure they've got some



numbers at the event and there should be two closing days before registration deadline. In responding, Meredith agreed that if it is done in school the teachers can also attend at their convenience but parking will be an issue.

Another suggestion was made to reinstate the Father-Daughter Breakfast. Fathers like to go into the classrooms and see the girls' work in progress. Mrs Brown is a big supporter of this as she does not want the polished finished product but rather an interaction with the girls in their daily routine. Meredith also mentioned that avgrandparents' event is in pipeline and Mrs Brown supported it.

Another question asking about the *Pymble* ball that's on the calendar for August, which will be a new event.

Meredith confirmed that they are still working on it and an invitation will be sent out to the whole school. More information to follow soon.

11.0 MEETING CLOSE

Christel, Monika and Kate thanked everyone for coming and thanked Mrs Brown for her time. They invited parents to meet in the Junior School foyer for tea and coffee following the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.45 am.