



**Pymble Ladies' College  
Junior School Parent Group (JSPG)**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting: JSPG Term 1 Meeting**  
**Date: Thursday 1 March 2018**  
**Time: 8.45am to 9.45am**  
**Location: Junior School Library**

**1.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Present:** Pam McPherson, Pilar Jemma, Neeru Bansal, Tarra Shaw, Frith Sweeney, Alex Woods, Bianca Orena Barlin, Lalenya Waterhouse, Petra Mumford, Sri Rajagopal, Carol Bai, Juliana Zhou, Jacqueline Low, Emi Kamimura, Zoe Sinan Miao, Kelly Mancey, Louise Holt, Christel Vigne, Lynn Soon, Julie Xie, Yu Wu, Carol Chen, Julia Ross, Samantha Thomas, Harry Lee, Meaghan Davis, Priscilla Macpherson, Susan Ma, Diana Dimovski, Zeina Nachar, Michelle Braysich, Kristy Yoon, Vaishali Goel, Parul Malhotra, Kate Livingstone, Jason Chen, Sunny Zhao, Cecilia Lim, Jennifer Sproull, Prathibha Aprameyan, Belinda Gerreyn, Qiqian (Lisa) Huang, Dushi Cooke, Shiva Rich, Jennifer Stoodley, Marianne Fader, Sarah Fisher, Debbie Kennedy, Lisa Stansfield, Louise Woodall, Zoe Green, Sean Wong

**By invitation:** Mr Nigel Walker, Mrs Blythe Cassidy, Mr Justin Raymond, Mrs Raj Narayan, Mr Anthony England

**Apologies:** n/a

**2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**Moved:** Susan Ma

**Seconded:** Pam

### **3.0 WELCOME BY GROUP LEADERS**

Pam and Pilar 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 LEADER REPORT**

Pilar gave a brief update on the first event of the term, the Welcome Morning Tea, which was a great event with approximately 165 people attending. She also outlined some upcoming events, such as the Pedal your Own Smoothie on 14 March, with Laurel convening. Please contact her if you wish to volunteer for this.

There will also be a meeting to follow immediately after this JSPG meeting regarding the Camp Out and asking for volunteers.

Pilar also put a call-out for volunteers for future events including:

- Food stall convenor for the Sports Carnival
- Mother-Daughter breakfast convenor
- Food Stall convenor for Swimming Carnival
- Garden Party stalls
- Jeans for Genes Day BBQ.

Interested volunteers are asked to contact the JSPG Group Leaders.

### **5.0 INTRODUCTION OF 2018 COMMITTEE / YEAR CO-ORDINATORS / CLASS PARENTS**

Pam announced the committee members for 2018.

Co-Group Leaders: Pilar Yemma and Pamela McPherson

Year 6 Co-ordinator: Michelle Braysich and Zeina Nachar

Year 5 Co-ordinator: Dushi Cooke and Neeru Bansal

Year 4 Co-ordinator: Belinda Gerreyn and Megan Heritage

Year 3 Co-ordinator: Shiva Rich

Finance Co-ordinator: Susan Ma

Record Keeper: Lalenya Waterhouse

Care and Support: Kate Livingstone

### **Class Parents**

3B: Alex Woods and Carol Bai

3T: Sri Rajagopal and Petra Mumford

3F: Lalenya Waterhouse and Louise Woodall

3D: Ying Han and Juliana Zhou

4G: Lynn Soon

4N: Monika Surana

4W: Sharon Solomons

4P: Louise Holt

5K: Kirsten Bond and Naomi Shanahan

5M: Sarah Bunce and Sasha Carrel

5A: Naomi Nakamuri and Parul Malhotra

5G: Stephanie Yu

5R: Fiona Van Horen

5T: Zoe Miao and Carrie Wormald

6T: Diana Dimovski and Debbie Kennedy

6W: Meaghan Davis, Marianne Fader and Katie Banerjee

6L: Dushi Cooke and Kate Livingstone

6D: Michelle Chen and Annie Bala

6S: Priscilla Macpherson, Emi Kamimura and Kristy Yoon

6M: Melissa Aveling, Kim Wlossak and Simran Rana

## 6.0 FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Susan Ma thanked Pam and delivered the following information.

As of 1 March, the JSPG account held \$25,000. This is a good balance, with items still to come out of the funds including a \$10,000 invoice to be paid for the Year 6 jerseys. It will then leave the JSPG with a \$15,000 balance. The JSPG welcome morning tea was a break-even event, so there was no impact on the balance. In all, the balance stands the JSPG in good stead for the events ahead this year including the Signature Bears.

## 7.0 HEAD OF PPA PRESENTATION

Raj Narayan talked about the key themes of the PPA. She encouraged the building of new connections and being welcoming and inclusive of all *Pymble* families and celebrating the diversity of the College.

She talked about the success of the last PPA event, Icebreaker, which was well supported (732 people), and thanked the Junior School parents for their strong attendance at the event.

Raj also outlined some changes to upcoming events.

- New Parents Lunch 23 March: This was previously known as the New Mothers Luncheon, but the name change will reflect the desire of *Pymble* to make events more inclusive. The event will now be open to any adult relative.
- Father-Daughter Dinners: They will now be known as a Dinner Dance e.g. “The Year 6 Dinner Dance” and may be themed. The flyer will invite girls and their dads (or mums, granddads or other special adult) to attend this fun event. The change reflects the desire for *Pymble* events to remain inclusive and to make every girl feel welcome.
- There will be no change to the name of the Mother’s Day Breakfast.
- Trivia Night: Upcoming PPA event scheduled for Saturday 19 May with a “Back to the ’80s” theme. Raj encouraged parents to support the event by getting tables of 10 together and costumes organised.

In conclusion, Raj again highlighted the fun and inclusive nature of the PPA and encouraged parents to get involved with events.

## 8.0 HEAD OF SCHOOLS' PRESENTATION

Mr Nigel Walker welcomed all the parents to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and in the "spirit of world compliment day", thanked parents for being involved in the school as it helps to foster a sense of community.

He also thanked the PITCH volunteers (Parents in the Classroom Helping) and thought the scheme was a simple yet effective way to increase parental involvement in learning. The scheme also allows the teachers/Junior School to get to know the girls better by allowing for 1:1 assessment by the teachers.

He also flagged two upcoming events that would be beneficial.

1. **Tuesday 13 March:** the organisation Interrelate (which provides personal health and development and education programs) will be visiting *Pymble* to provide a presentation to parents and girls in Years 3-4, and a separate presentation for parents and girls in Years 5-6. Further details will be provided in a forthcoming email.
2. **Thursday 15th March:** Dr Marc Brackett, Yale professor and lead developer of the RULER Program (focus on Emotional Intelligence), will be speaking to the *Pymble* community. Further details to be sent out in an email.

Nigel thanked the JSPG for the \$10,000 donation for the benefit of the girls, which was used to purchase outdoor furniture (benches and tables). This has arrived and is to be placed around the Junior School for the girls to enjoy.

He also highlighted the new web platforms for student learning and engagement from both an educator's perspective and a parent's perspective. These platforms will allow for greater personalised learning. The Strategic *Towards 2020 – Striving for the highest* document (available on the Pymble Ladies' College website) provides some key signposts, one being personalised learning. It drives almost everything the school does.

## Seesaw

This is a digital portfolio that allows parent access to student programs and provides a window into the learning process/progress. It also allows parents to engage in learning conversations.



**Personalised Learning:** to enable parent access to **student progress**

Provide parents with a **window** into the learning journey and process

Provide parents with a timely & meaningful **feedback**, focused on growth


Engage parents in **conversations** and learning as early as possible

Develop students' **ICT capabilities** in a safe & moderated environment



A pilot program was conducted within the Junior School last year (a Year 3 and a Year 5 class), and the program testing is ongoing. There will be a phased implementation and further details will be provided at a later date with an implementation timeline.

The benefits of Seesaw were also highlighted: web-based, practically real-time, fast and easy for teachers to produce. It will allow girls to develop their ICT capabilities in a moderated environment.



Previously	

Nigel highlighted some questions that arose during the pilot program. All work samples will go through the teacher who will vet everything posted by parents and students. You will only see your own daughter's work. The only exception will be group work (unless you have previously flagged with the College that you do not wish your daughter's image to be shared).

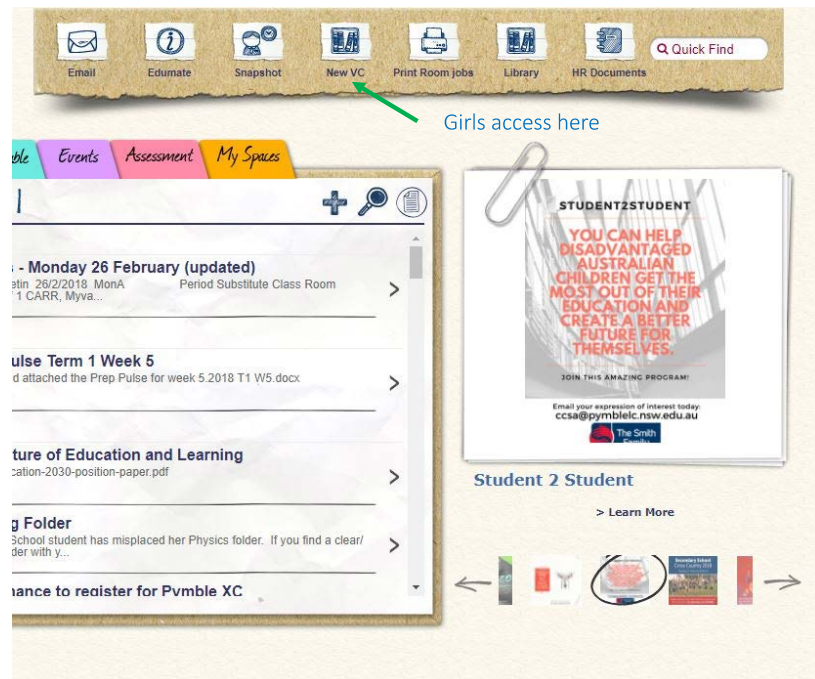
He also mentioned the necessity of educating the girls further on topics such as peer commentary and sharing etiquette before they would consider the sharing of work between peers on this platform.

## 9.0 BLYTHE CASSIDY: LEAD ICT INTEGRATOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

### CANVAS (Virtual Classroom)

This introduces the concept of a Virtual Classroom (VC) - a teaching and learning environment where the girls can interact, communicate, view and discuss presentations from teachers and each other, and engage with learning resources (individually or in groups), all in an online setting. Blythe showed a mock student account to illustrate the various features.

Introducing our  
new  
Virtual  
Classroom



As of Term 1 2018, it is available to Years 5 and 6. It will be available to Years 3 and 4 in the future. You can access it via an app on your computer or other device. The College will provide log-in details when the program is phased in.

It provides a “lights on learning” opportunity for the girls work and the dashboard feature will also show the current years, and previous year’s, portfolio of work. The girls can also take parents on a “tour” of the classroom just as they could in a physical classroom.



## Questions from parents at the JSPG meeting:

*Question: If a family has another child or children attending another school that also utilises Seesaw, would it be possible to access accounts from the one application?*

It was thought that this would be possible as the app itself is not specific to a particular school. More investigation will be carried out to give a definitive answer.

*Question: How will photos be captured?*

Years 3 and 4 will most likely use their iPad cameras to take pictures while Years 5 and 6 that utilise the BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology program) will most likely use their laptop cameras. There are also library iPads available. Years 5 and 6 are also likely to be building digital resources on their computers (e.g. files/photos/PPT) which can then be uploaded to Seesaw. Teachers will also be able to take photos of group work and post to individual accounts on behalf of the students.

*Question: What challenges were encountered during the trial?*

It went quite smoothly when asking the teachers to think creatively about what types of resources the students could use to share information. No technical challenges as it is quite a user-friendly, intuitive platform. A key (and continuing aim) is to make the program consistent so that different Year groups within the Junior School are consistent in what the parents receive in terms of output.

Mr Justin Raymond: "A potential challenge for the collective is the acceptance of the prototype/draft, work that is mid-progress rather than the perfect, polished product. It will take adjustment, but this transparency is a good thing and allows parents to see the growth and progression in the students' work."

*Question: Will you be uploading tests/assessments or just classwork?*

At this point in time it is not the intention of the program. This question will be taken onboard and explored further.

*Question: How does this link back to EduMate?*

Justin Raymond: We are looking at a tiered approach. The top tier is the polished product, the end of semester reports. The next level down is the program EduMate. It allows access to assessments and feedback on those assessments. It was rolled out for Year 6 through to Year 8 in 2017. This year it will possibly be for Year 6 again, but all parents from Years 7 through to 12 have access. The third layer, Seesaw is about the work. The tiers can be thought of as: Story (i.e. report) / Judgement (i.e. EduMate) / Work (Seesaw).

The challenge as educators is not to perpetuate a culture in which assessments are the only thing that matters, particularly in a K-6 context. It is about growth and learning and not just about assessments, ranks and percentages, which will come in Years 11 and 12.

*Question: How does the moderating work for the teachers?*

Blythe Cassidy: Multiple teachers will be attached to your daughter's portfolio to be able to access and post their work.

Mr Walker also highlighted that having a genuine audience for their work provides the students great motivation to do the task well.

*Question: What if the parents don't respond?*

That is perfectly ok. It is not practical for the girls to expect parents/teachers to comment on every piece of work and this will be part of the education of the girls.

*Question: The 'Likes' some adults receive on social media may lead them to gain a psychological dependence on number of likes. How will the 'Like' button impact on the girls?*

The default position at the moment is that the girls cannot see the Like button.

*Question: Could this be a facility for electronic School Reports?*

These are already available on EduMate. There is three years of archived school reports (minus the signature) available here.

In closing Mr Walker thanked Blythe and Justin for their contributions.

## **10.0 MEETING CLOSE**

Pam queried as to when Seesaw would be available and Mr Walker advised that there would be a phased implementation and the Junior School would advise parents.

Pam thanked Mr Walker for his time. She also thanked everyone for coming and invited parents to meet in the Junior School foyer for tea and coffee.

Meeting closed at 9.45am.