Parent Forum Meeting  
Monday February 13, 2012

Meeting opened by Brian Laybutt at 7:07pm

Apologies: Leah Sheldon, Michelle Nassar, Clare Deal

Present: Nikki Clark, Sarah Guinea, Gillian Taylor; Erica Wells, Emma Butler, Kathryn Leslight, Claire Price, John Hillcoat, Gillian Taylor, Shylie Sykes, Sara Wilkinson

In Attendance: Brian Laybutt, Brendan Ryan

Welcome & Prayer read by Brendan Ryan

Treasurer’s Report: read & tabled by Erica Wells. Accepted by Nikki Clark and seconded by Sarah Guinea

Minutes of previous meeting tabled by Nikki Clark, accepted by Erica Wells and seconded by Sarah Guinea

AGM 2011: addressed by Brendan Ryan, roles explained by existing forum members. Chairperson accepted by Nikki Clark; Secretary accepted by Claire Price; Treasurer accepted by Kathryn Leslight; Assistant Treasurer accepted by Gillian Taylor. Constitution to be uploaded to website. Constitution accepted by Kathryn Leslight, seconded by Emma Butler.

Secretary’s Report: N/A

Parent Assembly Address: N/A

Principal’s Report:

* Brian explained changes to staff as well as support staff.
* Enrichment programs are set to start this week.
* 348 enrolled students over 13 classes, with only a few available positions in limited classes this year. Mt St Pat’s is close to a 2-stream school where 14 classes would be the ceiling and we would have 2 classes in each year.
* School refurbishment:
  Air-con installed in 4 new classrooms
  Blinds installed in 4 new classrooms
  7 new data projections
  $9,000 reading materials K-Y6
  New dictionaries and thesaurus’
  New shelving in withdrawal rooms/Acting Principal office
  New signage for admin area
  Landscaping of playground
  Replacement of carpet in classrooms
* Term 1 Events:  
  Open school year mass/induction of school leaders
  Parent info nights
  K & Stage 1 family picnics
  Zone swimming Ash Wednesday
  Bush dance
  K parent / teacher night
  1st reconciliation
  Reconciliation meeting
  Cross country & skill-a-thon
  Easter bonnet parade
  Holy Thursday liturgy
  ANZAC day (term 2 beginning)

* New Initiatives
  Infants disco May 15th
  Primary disco May 17th
  School talent quest August 11th

* Parent Representative roles explained by Brendan Ryan.

* Important school events:
  Bush dance          MSM & 2H
  Skill-a-thon        MSS
  Mother’s day        2P
  Infants disco       1T
  Primary disco       2M
  Talent quest        KM
  Father’s day        1D
  Grandparent’s day   2D
  Monster raffle      MSF
  Golf day            KP
  World Teacher’s day MSW
  Murwillumbah Show   2C

* General business: 
  Chaplaincy Report: Federal Government Initiative. Position currently held by Philomena Zambelli who introduces new students to the school, runs the Season’s Program (grief stricken children), rosary bead making with children at lunch, Mini Vinnies program, works with Mt St Patrick Primary, Mt St Patrick College & St Joseph’s Primary School.

  Tweed Parent Assembly: Clare Deale & Mel Rainger were last year’s representatives and positions are now open for 2012. Sarah Wilkinson nominated herself for this position. The other position will be advertised in the newsletter.

  Principal response to parent requests / suggestions received:
  - Tournament of Minds (6 creative minded children). It was agreed that this would be difficult to implement (i.e. who to select and how, time to prepare students). As a result it was not endorsed.
  - Premier’s Reading Challenge Y3-6 currently held - request for Y2 students to participate. K – Yr 2 focus on achieving proficiency of reading to level 30, this is a priority. In Yr 3 students then encouraged to participate in PRC. Having Premiers Reading Challenge for Yr 2 students may place undue pressure on them, therefore not necessary. Library Assistant has very limited time available to process students names and the proposed reading books. This suggestion was not endorsed.
- Language class suggestion, or a tutor be employed, as per music lessons, to teach a language. It was felt that it would be another disruption to classes having students withdrawn from class. There would be difficulty in choosing which language and even more difficult employing a language teacher. It was felt that parents who wanted their child to receive tuition in another language could do this by arranging private tuition outside school hours.
- School jumper (knitted style). Jumpers are expensive, “itchy” and not necessary. The “sloppy jo” is a much better option
- Homework allowed to be completed over weekends so working parents are not so stressed. This will be investigated by Brian

Meeting closed: 8.21pm