Parent Forum Meeting

Monday 8th August 2016

Meeting opened
Brendan Ryan opened meeting at 6.33pm

Present
Sarah Biersteker, Sonya Gradisnik, Jo Biles, Gabrielle Nardi, Will Nardi, Lesley Van Rosi, Dannielle Cracknell, Melissa Toms, Gretel Jones, Linda Cunningham, Kisa Baldwin, Jan Cronly

Apologies
Maria McCabe, Claire Price, Emma Butler, Karen Anderson

In attendance
Brendan Ryan, Carolyn Waugh

Welcome & Prayer
Prayer

Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Moved by Will Nardi, seconded by Dannielle Cracknell

Treasurer’s Report – presented by Will Nardi

Treasurer’s Report
Treasurer’s Report, Profit and Loss statement, Balance Sheet and account balance was tabled by Will Nardi. Opening balance as at 1st April 2016 was $12,958.59 and closing balance as at 4th August 2016 was $7,715.64. There is an allocation of $8,000 to resources (this is prior to the income being received from Monster Raffle and Father’s Day Stall).

Moved by Melissa Toms, seconded by Sarah Biersteker.

School Resources
Brendan Ryan tabled a financial request for school resources to cover:

- Book Week - visiting author Matt Ottley for Yr4-6 (August 24th) $750.00 approx.
- John Burland Concert for K-Yr6 (August 25th) @ $4.50/child $1,620.00 approx.
- Kinder – Henny Penny Chickens (Week 9) $220.00
- Playground Equipment for Sand Pits $292.71
- Sports subsidy extended to Strings group (Diocesan level) $25.00 per 100kms+ travelled

All in favour – All present

- Acknowledgement and thanks to Will Nardi for his expertise in streamlining the management of the financials.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to Kisa Baldwin for purchasing the playground equipment.
Secretary’s Report
Incoming correspondence:
• None.

Outgoing correspondence:
• Shayne Cracknell – Letter of Thanks.

Principal’s Report – presented by Brendan Ryan

Needs-Based Funding
• School recognised as a ‘low socio-economic’ school which has attracted additional funding, as well as additional disability funding for students with additional needs.
• Funding has been allocated to:
  o Staffing – additional Teaching and Support staff (Simon Smith, Stacey Young, Kate Keogh). This has enabled staff release of 40mins per week to review individualised plans for students.
  o Resources – Literacy resources for K-Yr2, 40 laptops in K-Yr2. Next year’s plan is to purchase Level 31-40 books for independent readers.

New Learning Support Room
• With the additional funding, the school is seeking to enclose the open area currently under cover with tables, to convert to a multipurpose room. Brendan has been working with the architect to include a future plan to build on top of this to create more space on another level.

School Administration Entrance Plans
• A Development Application was submitted to Tweed Shire Council last week for the refurbishment of the entrance. There is an expected 3-month wait, and the refurbishment is likely to be completed over Christmas.

Year 6, 2017 - School Excursion: Sydney/Canberra
• Current situation
  o Year 5 and Year 6 attend excursion alternately Lake Ainsworth (4 days @ $330.00) and Brisbane/Sunshine Coast (3 days @ $350.00).
• Proposed change
  o Year 6 destination is Sydney/Canberra - fly from Coolangatta into Sydney, bus to Canberra and fly out of Canberra (5 days @ approx. $850.00) – strong association with the curriculum in terms of historical content with visits to Parliament House, War Memorial, AIS, Questacon, National Museum, Telstra Towers, Royal Australia Mint etc. Feedback from attendees at the meeting identified that the link to the curriculum reinforces the benefit for students attending this excursion.
  o Year 5 still to attend Lake Ainsworth.
• Responses – at the time of the meeting, Brendan had received 60 replies - 52 Yes, and 7 Nots, with 1 unsure.
• Area for discussion
  o Cost – school will seek parent notification whether their child would be attending early in Term 4. Parents could be billed over three terms in Year 6. Students not attending would be expected to attend classes as normal in Year 5. There are possible options for repayment.
  o Distance – students would be permitted to bring mobile phones for contact with families. Activities selected would be considered low risk – e.g. no ice skating.
  o Fundraising – consideration for fundraising would take place – how this would look is still to be decided.
o Can the students not attending the excursion undertake a history project to present to the students attending and vice-versa?

Assistant Principal’s Report – presented by Brendan Ryan

Sound Waves – Spelling program
• The school has looked at the results from SmartData and Naplan, and has adopted Sound Waves. The feedback has been very favourable from both teachers and parents, and the research also supports the positive outcomes being experienced.

Geography Curriculum
• The recent professional development day was focused on geography and field work including Google Maps. The school has purchased resources and has undertaken excursions such as Macadamia Castle for Year 1 students.
• Worked in well with the Opening Ceremony for the Olympic Games held last week at the school. The students learned a lot about the history of the Olympics and the opening ceremony itself.
• Year 6 boys and girls ‘released the doves’ and a Year 7 student from the College presented in French.

Maths Parent Session – August 18th
• Maths equipment has been purchased to support the implementation of the mathematics curriculum. The school has implemented a ‘base 10’ system with a focus on numbers and number strands. The resources are kept in the classroom and enable students and teachers to easily access.
• A parent session is being held on August 18th to demonstrate to parents how these resources are used.

SRC – Koala Initiative
• The school will be discussing with the SRC in September the protection of koalas in the local area. This will not be limited to SRC, but SRC will lead discussions with the student body.

General Business

Monster Raffle
• Awaiting feedback from Mantra to confirm accommodation, DreamWorld has been confirmed.
• Suggestions were to approach some of the larger organisations in the local area like Coles, Bunnings, Hoyts and perhaps an activity place such as Flip-Out.

Parent Assembly
• Staff continuity was raised as a concern with the recent number of staff on maternity, as some children do not cope with change and can be quite distracted.

Next Meeting
Monday 31st October.

Meeting closed
Brendan Ryan closed the meeting at 8.08pm.