



St Bernard's P&F General Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday 11th August 2010

2:00pm closed 3:10pm

Attendees

President:	Maria Smith
Vice President:	Roxanne LaTorraca
Treasurer:	Jodi Gallagher
Diocese Parent Council (DPC) Representative:	APOLOGIES absent
Principal:	Luanna Fletcher
Vice Principal:	Craig McNee
REC:	Maria Whitton
Secretary:	Vicki O'Leary
Parents & Friends	
	Justy Thompson
	Fiona Cunningham
	Lisa Palmer
	Margaret Leader
	Danielle Knight
	Nicole Locke
	Marie D'arcy
	Allyson Pinson

Apologies:

Catherine Davidson
Parish Priest

Points of Discussion / Updates

Updates	Notes
Craig McNee / Maria Whitton	Special presentation on Literacy: Guided Writing, Guided Reading and tips for helping your child. Please see attached powerpoint presentation for details. This is definitely worth looking at if you are interested in learning more about reading and writing for your child.
Principal	<p>August 2010</p> <p><i>Building Update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works completed; just awaiting finalisation of defects Blessing and Opening Ceremony was well supported by the community. I extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who assisted with this event. I am very appreciative of the community members who attended and celebrated. The new facilities are benefiting the students in numerous ways <p><i>Curriculum Update:</i></p> <p>Numeracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDD held on 2nd July focused on Clinical Number Assessment Gifted Mathematicians Course attended by Mrs Florance and Mrs Whitton to promote opportunities for teachers to become more skilled in ways to differentiate the Mathematics curriculum to cater to more capable students Resourcing of Numeracy (particularly through ICLT) continues to be a focus

Points of Discussion / Updates

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	<p>Literacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for developing a Scope and sequence for Spelling continues to be supported throughout the school• CSO experts (Jane Denny and Sue Low) are providing professional development opportunities to Kindergarten and year One staff to ensure they are well versed in the structure, components and best practice of the Literacy Block <p>Earth Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gabi Moore will contact Catherine Davidson regarding education of staff and parents on the use of toxins and chemicals in our world <p><i>Joseph The Musical:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are deeply indebted to Fiona Kelly (mother of Imogen in 1MT) for all her support• Deeply indebted also to Mary Rajca and Sarah Haywood for their support• Tickets are currently on sale; ticketing prices are not intended to make money on the production but are to cover the cost of copyright, lighting, microphone hire etc• Next year's Kindergarten students have been invited to a Matinee performance of the musical• Tickets are sold out and thanks go to Nikki Fletcher for her volunteer help in getting these seats allocated and ticketed. <p><i>Kindergarten Enrolments 2011:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 52 offers of enrolment were sent out; anticipate 48-50 Kindergarten students• There will be two classes• Nicole Locke will coordinate helpers for the Kindergarten Playgroup which begins on 20th October• "I'm going to School at St Bernard's" t-shirts have been sent to each of the children (the cost of which has been met by the school, assessing the application fee) <p><i>Uniform Shop:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 'Starter Pack' option will be introduced for next year's Kindergarten and new families <p><i>Maintenance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A huge thank you to Tim O'Leary, Mick O'Neill, Maria Smith and Craig McNee for collaborating to purchase and hang the new classroom doors• The lawns are looking great and all those who've assisted with mowing and gardening are thanked• An external contractor was employed for 3 hours last weekend to weed and tidy the garden areas immediately in front and behind Kindergarten classrooms• The response at the last Working Bee (in terms of those present and the amount of work covered) was outstanding.• An electrician has been employed to complete several tasks across the school, most importantly to fit an air-conditioner to 2P and lighting under the amphitheatre <p><i>External Facilitators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To accommodate the desire of many parents several external opportunities have been made available to the students over the last two terms. Sewing classes and art classes; these in no way impact upon the actual teaching and learning of the Visual and Creative Arts syllabus.

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	<p><i>Fundraising:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trivia Night was a huge success and the funds have been used to purchase two interactive whiteboards: one will be mounted in the Library and a mobile one purchased for Year 5. Whilst I anticipated that one of these would be put into 2F, in collaboration with the Leadership Team, this will not occur because of the physical drawbacks of the classroom Leanne McCarthy has approached Maria and I (via email) about hosting a 'DVD Showing' one evening. I am yet to be advised on possible dates <p><i>Reporting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An explanation of the A-E Reporting guidelines was offered in the last week of last term and 4 parents attended. <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Luanna Fletcher Principal</p> <p>Additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report has many beautiful photos of St Bernards children. NAPLAN – see page 29 of this report for an outline of how well Catholic Schools in the Broken Bay diocese have done in Naplan 2009 RFF: release from face to face teaching. Note that this will increase to 120 minutes (from 105 mins) next year and as much as possible this is scheduled in during library, music, PE or dance time when the students are with another teacher. Research shows children need a solid literacy program of 1-2hrs / day aim is to schedule teacher time so this can be maintained especially with the K-2 classes. Athletics Carnival: many schools have had same problem and it was decided to take the same teams from last year for 9-10yrs and to mark out a track on the oval for 8-9yrs.
Craig McNee WRITING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy / reading: Encouraging Writers: KEY POINTS – see powerpoint for full report The aim is to encourage children to write so as parents you may find that not every spelling error is corrected on a page in order not to discourage them. The teachers will only correct words that are relevant to their level of learning Classroom strategies are always being updated and currently the intranet and CSO visits from Sue Low and Jane Denny are helping staff keep up to date with the latest BEST STRATEGY FOR PARENTS: Encourage your child to write. Look at where the child is having problems with spelling and discuss this with the teacher in order to understand the best way to assist with their particular issue and which style of spelling this may be: eg phonetic, entymological etc. When parents suggest a child 'has a go' need to realise the strategy the child will draw upon is usually phonetic and this may not always be the right way to go about spelling that word. Do not be afraid to offer them the correct answer so they can learn the right way RELUCTANT WRITERS: The best idea is to give a child a reason to write. Reluctant writers like to have a purpose eg write a recipe / instructions on how to build something in lego. Sentence starters eg on the weekend are useful but can sometimes stifle creativity so it may be better to use topics / ideas as a prompt for writing
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARE FREEZER: meals are required for the care freezer im teh canteen to help families in the community who need a 'break' and a home cooked meal. CANTEEN: Thanks to canteen ladies and uniform shop ladies for ongoing support VEGE GARDEN: Thanks to Ashlee Pascoe and Vicki O'Leary for obtaining the Seedings grant of \$1000 and please volunteer to help if you can. Also, Lisa Palmer advised that Bendigo Bank are donating gardening tools for our vege

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	<p>garden project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNIFORM SHOP: Request vote to move uniform shop to Bendigo Bank – decision unanimous. Any other business
Treasurer	<p>Current balance: \$6799 Trivia night raised: \$17995 - \$15000 was given to the school for purchase of white boards etc. see LF report above for more details</p> <p>Thanks to Jackie Watts for auditing the 2009 reports.</p>
Uniform	<p>Unanimous vote to move all uniform shop banking to Bendigo Bank. Also suggest parents are encouraged to use electronic banking as well.</p> <p>Concern over quality of girls winter and summer uniforms with hems falling down. For discussion next meeting.</p>
Item / Issue	Notes
QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion regarding absentee policy and whether school is able to guarantee they will call if a child is absent. LF suggested there was no guarantee and the best way to ensure child is at school if it is of concern is to call the office and ask them to check. LF suggested any issues parents believe are affecting individual children please be brought to her attention in person rather than at P&F forum. SEEDING GRANT: School received \$1000 from Northern Sydney Health which will go towards a green house and new vege patch. Vicki O'Leary and Ashlee Pascoe leading this but would like expressions of interest from parents to help get the project off the ground. Please contact Vicki 9456 0740 if you can help or provide suggestions on how to set up a new revamped vege garden. See attached action plan for more details. CHEMICAL FREE KIDS: Gabi Moore is looking for interested parents to support a visit by two university experts on the impact of chemicals and toxins on our kids. For more information contact Gabi Moore or Maria Smith for a copy of the article outlining this seminar.

Completed Action Items				
Item / Issue	Owner	Action Required	Target Date	Status
Australian Flag	LF	Look at purchasing an Australian Flag for use at assembly		CLOSED
School Calendar	LF/Father Robert	Aim to ensure the parish events are overlaid with the school calendar as much as possible		CLOSED
Deanery Calendar	Father Robert	Aim to get a calendar of Deanery so that our events don't clash with other schools as well especially high schools.		TBA

New Action Items				
Item / Issue	Owner	Action Required	Target Date	Status
Vege Garden	Vicki O'Leary	Looking for parents interested in helping set up green house and vege garden with money received from Northern Sydney Health	SEP	OPEN
Chemical Free Kids	Gabi Moore	Please contact Gabi if you are interested in learning more about chemical free kids	AUG	OPEN
Uniforms for Girls	Maria Smith	Point of discussion for next P&F meeting regarding quality of hems on uniforms	OCT	OPEN