

St. Mary's Primary School
Parents and Friends Association

Minutes of the General meeting held on
Wednesday 3rd March 2010

MEETING OPENED AT 7:35pm

PRESENT:

Sue Thomas, Rachel Hogan, Tony Hughes, Trish Worsley, Jemma Arathoon, Fiona Feher-Hegarty, Anne Marie Lyons, Josie Botto, Maria Gibson, Phileen de la Roche, Michael Majoor, Eliza Stefulj, Shannon Vinton, Natalie Miskelly, Dorothy Panas

APOLOGIES:

Fran Cutler, Jennene Gillies

1. Principal's Report – Tony Hughes

- Welcome to our new staff for 2010 – Year 1: Miss Maryann Chatfield, Mrs Margaret Haddad and Mrs Jo-Anne Wrightson and welcome back Mrs Kylie Spicer to Year 2.

Religious Dimension

- Celebrated our Opening school mass in week three incorporating the blessing and installation of our new student leadership team and staff.
- Lent has commenced with the launch of the Caritas' Project Compassion lead by year 4.
- The children form years 3-6 will attend Reconciliation over the next four weeks in preparation for Easter.
- Celebration of Catholic Schools week [Wk 8-14th-20th March]- Liturgy Mon 15th, Open day, tours and morning tea Tues 16th 9:15-11am
- The school will celebrate the Easter Story through prayer and reflection during Holy week with the celebration of our Easter liturgy on Friday 23rd April [Wk 1 Term 2]
- Results/ data from our participation in the pilot project for the Yr 4 Religious Literacy Assessments have been received.
- Tomorrow night I will be attending the ordination mass for the new Bishop of Parramatta the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher [3rd Bishop of the Parramatta Diocese.]

BER Building project Update.

- The learning Space and Building project information meeting for parents was held several weeks ago-minutes for the meeting available on the school website.
- Two new A/Cs are being installed in the hall for both cooling and heating during the refurbishment.
- Completion date for the project both sites 30th Nov 2010
- Slab and Form work for the new section of the building on the Mercy site well underway.
- Stage 1 refurbishment on the Mercy site [downstairs] has commenced. Yr 3 are in the hall with 6M [Mrs Brewster's class] in the Library. Due for completion some time early term 2.
- Stage 2 refurbishment on the Mercy site [upstairs] will commence early term 2 at the completion of stage 1.
- No work has been commenced on the Marist Site due to the heritage consultation ban placed on the site. Awaiting council approval for commencement of works.

Teaching Learning / Curriculum

- Kinder and year 1 teachers are currently conducting the early years Assessments with their children.
- Teachers currently investigating a tracking system that can be utilised to track children's progress from K-6
- This term the teachers' professional learning is focussing of Literacy and Numeracy, Inquiry based learning [Staff Dev Day wk 4] and Developmental Play.
- The "My School" website was launched early this year allowing parents to access 2009 NAPLAN results.

- The Federal Government has launched the draft of the National Educational Curriculum. The draft documents are now available to be viewed and commented on by all members of the community at: www.australiacurriculum.edu.au
- Thank you to all those who attended our recent parent teacher Information evenings. My thanks to the teachers for their time and input.
- We have just purchased another 10 IBM atoms (laptops) for use in the classrooms.
- Thank you to the parents who have recently attended the Tutor training workshops.
- Continued professional development of Quality Teaching Framework with a focus in term 2010 on 'classroom practice'
- The "Rock and Water" [Social Skills / anti bullying] programme is being conducted again this year with the children in stage 2 and 3
- A new approach to identifying bullying incidents in the school has been put into place. Captain Care will be our new School PBS mascot.

Sport

- Last Friday our school participated in the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival with sixteen children progressing to this Friday's Diocesan carnival. Our school was the overall winner of the schools' trophy.
- This term teams have been entered in the Mark Taylor Cricket Shield competition, Stage 3 girls soccer gala day and the stage 2 touch football day.
- Our annual Cross Country carnival will be held on Friday 26th March at Upjohn Park.
- Welcome to our new PE teacher Miss Karlie Couch. Each class will have a 40 minute PE lesson every second week.

Social and Community news

- Thanks to Sue Thomas and Rachel Hogan for organising the Welcoming party early this term.
- At this stage there will be no fete this year due to the building programme and refurbishment.
- Phones will be out of order tomorrow due to the upgrade work of the school's wireless network. The school can be contacted on 0432 056 959.
- Thank you to all those parents who attended the recent Child protection workshops. They are now available online.
- Our 2010 St Mary's Business Directory has been published and due for distribution this week.
- A new school prospectus has been published and is now available for distribution to this year's enrolment period in May.
- Enrolments at the moment are increasing steadily with over 350 children enrolled in the school

2. President's Report – Rachel Hogan (on behalf of Fran Cutler)

- Thank you everyone for coming plus an introduction of committee members for new parents.
- The welcome functions, morning tea and the commencement party, have been held earlier in Term 1.
- The P&F are purchasing 2 new roller bags for the gazebos at a cost of \$321 including delivery. Also repair the existing bags.
- Money has been donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. Money was raised from selling the left over gelato from the Bushdance held in Term 4 2009.
- The Volunteer Grant was not successful in 2009. The P&F will apply again in 2010.
- Cards are available from the office for Healey's Meats in Telopea. When purchasing from Healey's Meats, a percentage comes back to the school.

3. Treasurer's Report – Helen Gosper

Update as at 29th January 2010.

Cheque account:	\$5,298.24 with \$1,143.43 as unrepresented cheques.
	Expected total = \$4,154.81
Savings account:	\$38,944.60

Expenses to date:

- Communi-Tea Cafe
- Commencement Party
- 2 roller bags
- General supplies

4. **Clothing Pool – Helen Gosper**

- The Clothing pool is open every second Friday.
- In 2009, the clothing pool profits purchased swimming caps and a range of Representative (Soccer) shirts.
- The total profit brought over from 2009 is \$438.80.
- Current balance is \$566.80

5. **Social Coordinator's Report – Sue Thomas**

- The Communi-tea Café Morning Tea and the Commencement Party held early in Term 1 went well. An idea for next year is to have the Commencement Party as a family event and have a BBQ and music available. The P&F can purchase food and make it an alcohol free night. This is in response to the reduced numbers of parents attending – often stating issues with babysitting as a reason for not coming. The revised format may see more of the school community benefitting from the funds that have previously been spent predominately on alcohol for the night.
- Coming Events: Due to building works, all events held at the school this year will be held outside.
 - Trivia Night to be held at St Patrick's in Term 2.
 - A Disco will be postponed until later in the year. Originally the disco was going to be on Friday 19th March, however this will clash with the Stations of the Cross held on the same night. Rachel Hogan asked if the disco could be moved to a Saturday. Tony advised that Saturday's are not preferred as staff often attend, and this is their own personal time. The disco may be postponed until Term 2.
 - The Open Day is on Tuesday 16th March from 9:15 until 11am. Helpers will be needed to run the morning tea that the P&F will organise.
- All P&F functions require assistance from parents. This includes setting up, cooking food and packing up. Trish asked Class Parents to help at functions and also rally parents to help.
- The Commencement Party had parents help set up that were not attending the party – which was very much appreciated.

6. **Class Parent Co-ordinator's Report – Trish Worsley**

- All Class Parent positions have been filled.
- The Class Parent meeting went well.
 - **Question** from Class Parent meeting: Parents would like to be notified prior to assemblies if their child is receiving an award. Also could parents be emailed?
A: Tony will look at this. A possible suggestion is to notify the Class Parents. Emailing and notifying each parent is a time consuming process.
- Class Contact Lists will be sent out soon. 10th March is the cut off date for returning details.

7. **Mother's/Father's Day Co-ordinator's Report – Rachel Hogan on behalf of Jennene Gillies**

- The P&F have purchased presents for the Mother's Day stall. The gifts will range from \$3 to \$6. Wrapping of the presents will be held on Wednesday 5th May with the stall being held on the Thursday. Maureen asked if the stall could be held a day or 2 earlier to enable the children to purchase gifts to post away.
 - **Action Item:** Rachel to talk to Jennene about this.
- The location for the wrapping and selling of gifts will be advised closer to the date.

- When the stall is on for the children, each class comes through one at a time. Some children may be able to purchase 2 presents.
- On the Friday, there will be a Mother's Day breakfast from 8am.

8. PRC Update – Eliza Stefulj

- There was a PRC meeting held on Monday 1st March although Eliza was unable to attend.
- At the previous meeting, the PRC attended a school at Merrylands where they have been using the open learning classrooms. The set up included bean bags and lounges and so on. They found that grades have increased by 30-40% over all grades. Children are not removed from classes, rather they are worked with within the classroom. Also bullying was minimised because teachers were present. There are 3 teachers per grade which means a more diverse report. There were teething problems but they have been worked out. The space changed across the different grades to meet each grade's needs.

9. General Business

- **Gelato** – At the last meeting in Term 4 we voted on having a Gelato fundraiser. Due to tight delivery constraints this was postponed from December 2009, with the aim to run it in the first few weeks of Term 1. There was a lot going on in a short space and so we pushed this back as well. We will look at running in early Term 4.
- **Open Day** – The P&F will host the morning tea during the Open Day. This is on Tuesday 16th March in week 8. The morning tea will be from 9:15am until 11am and held outside the canteen (to be confirmed closer to the date)
- **Correspondence In:**
 - Laura Jean Photography
 - JDRF – Receipt of donation
 - Lifehouse at RPA – Receipt of donation
 - Australian Red Cross – Bushfire Update
 - Big Screen Promotions
 - Carnival Connection – Mother's Day gifts
 - Synergy – copy of invoice dated 18/9/09

Meeting closed at 8:45pm