Meeting started at 7.15

No principal’s report as Principal Mia Kumar is away.

Presentations:

Jodie Coleman – new Year 7 advisor.
Not a lot to report. Year 7 camp – nothing went wrong, a bit of homesickness, but generally the girls had a great time, lots of interesting outdoor activities and that all went well. Students were mixed up to enable them to make new friends. Organisation went smoothly. Great group of teachers assisted. Back at school, some friendship group issues that are normal for Year 7 in term 1 and most of these issues are able to be talked out and settled down. Year 7 is settling in nicely.

Margaret Nowak, coordinator for Gifted and talented program
The program is in its 6th year of running in the school. Photo on display in school foyer of the first year’s G & T students who did year 12 last year.
In year 7 Students can choose an area they are interested in – “Welcome to the world of” is the over-arching theme. The girls have to give an outline and presentation to parents, invited guests and their classes of their G & T project. Wide variety of projects – very diverse.
In year 8 the students meet more regularly, and graduate into more analytical skills, choosing a problem to solve. Thinking skills are being promoted.
Report to school executive from G & T program including a student’s survey was done recently.
Detailed way of identifying the gifted and talented students is in the making.
The year 8 group was the biggest group so far.
Examples of Year 7 & 8 student projects were shown: outstanding presentation on child labour; different aspects of technology; diversity “Manchester United”; street art in Leichhardt and Balmain. Judging is done September-October each year.

Parent questions

Question; how many students in the G & T program?
A: In Year 7 – 17; Students can start G & T in year 8.

Questions: do G & T students go to special activities outside the school, for example at the Art gallery?
A: No – due to time constraints; however students get opportunities through doing their subject areas, and all teachers support these children. Janina: 6 students sent to the Art gallery for Visual Arts.

Q: are the G & T students being taught research skills?
A: focus on research skills as part of the G & T program. Different ways of presenting material also, not just “death by powerpoint”.

Q: How do you identify students for the G & T program?
A: From all KLAs (key learning areas), there is teacher feedback, all head teachers and year 7 students, and also parental nomination. Teachers look at student’s previous results (eg. Year 6 results).

Amazed at the variety of student experiences in the KLAs – teachers give feedback in lots of different ways – usually not using numbers, but grades. Use of technology - Site called “moodle” has quizzes and activities that enhance student learning. Year 7 is also exposed to technology, and will be given experience with computers. Year 9’s are given more direction with computers, when they get their laptops. So students are supported with technology, and it is not assumed they are familiar with computers.

Assessment in Year 7:
At end of Year 7 a “celebration of learning” is held that parents are invited to, to show parents what the students have achieved.

- students prepare a portfolio of work, showing how they progress through the year

For English:
- all classes complete a common skills based task
- classes also do set class tasks set and marked by the teacher

Maths is the only graded subject, due to the multiple levels and streams.

All other subjects also have common tasks. Outlines of science, history, music, visual arts, TAS – again with an Asian focus for Year 7, PDHPE topics (including introduction to school policy on bullying), for Year 7. Languages – new Asian Literacy and languages focus in Year 7 – Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, with cultural aspects. This is due to moving towards the future National Curriculum.

Q: Why only maths graded?
A: The school has an approach of having classes with students with a variety of abilities.

Q: What happens if a student would like to do a language not currently offered?  
A: Students can pick up a language at any stage.

Q: about student assessments.  
A: Assessment schedules – Years 10, 11 and 12 are strict – the school has parent nights to explain strict assessment schedules for these years.

A number of parents expressed some concerns about some assessment tasks – length of tasks; different classes doing same test and 1st class students telling later classes students what the assessment task is.

**Business Section of the Meeting**

**Apologies:** Lee McKenzie; Mia Kumar

Minutes of previous meeting (February 2011): Accepted. Belinda Gibson put; Leslie Jolly seconded.

**General Business:**

Movement Studio – letter from Year 12 student – HSC drama students can’t use the music studio, and have had to continue to use the hall, which is considered inadequate due to poor acoustics. Year 12 2011 Drama Class wants to use the movement studio for drama.

The letter will be put to Janina Longman to look at the issues raised. Janina stated that where the girls do their performance does not affect marks.

Email from Mia – request to run a stall on election day. School captains will be running a sausage stall. Holy Innocents will be running a cake stall.

Correspondence from Alice Magoffin re senior blazer:  
Discussion: girls have to attend functions. A neat navy blue blazer with a school crest would be good. The uniform shop will look into this.  
Suggestion put to introduce a blazer across all the years, choosing a timeless style. Alice Magoffin and Karen O’Brien and Lesley Jolly will look at blazer options. (Effie Matsas also to join the blazer committee).  
Some girls asked for a school tie. This will also be looked into with Mia Kumar.
Various parents are concerned there is no school hat – request for a good soft hat with a wide brim. However, it was pointed out that the wearing of the hat would have to be enforced, otherwise many students would not wear it.

Correspondence in – parcel of info from annual conference of P & C Association. This will be summarised at the next meeting.

Suggested correspondence out – draft letter to Verity Firth asking for the timing of removal of unflued gas heaters from Burwood Girls High School (due to risk of asthma and other issues). Suggestion to wait and find out who the next Education Minister. Motion put and seconded to send a letter to the Education Minister after the election. Lesley Jolly put; Alice Magoffin seconded.

**Treasurer’s report**

Uniform shop 58,907.88; $36,178 paid to suppliers.

Uniform Shop Balance as at 4/1/11 $36,000.48
This year : $9,912 balance Uniform shop – plus sales – around $22,000 balance
P & C balance: $11,583.70
Reports tabled
Brad McKee & Alice Magoffin – motion put and seconded.

P & C spends money on seating around the playground. The P & C can look at funding some other works around the school (for example better fans for the school hall), at the next meeting.

**General Business**

**International Day** – this year on “Closing the Gap” theme, English café with cakes; concert in the hall, Girls wear international costume. Lunch Stalls of international food; bands play. Year 12 has a fund-raising stall. Student cultural performances after lunch. Parents welcome from 12.30pm. BBQ sausage stall run by P & C – P & C needs volunteers. List of volunteers taken for the stall, to cook & staff the stall on the day, to start at 12 noon.

Q; wouldn’t it better to run it on a weekend so more parents can attend.
A: the idea is not centrally fund-raising, but as a school day, and to raise funds for “Hands across the ocean”.

**Year 7 & 8 Disco** – 17th March, tomorrow night – request for more volunteers 5.30 to 8.30pm
Suggestion from Teacher Welfare- Olga Maroc – school could run a “Parenting Teenagers” course. General support expressed for this.

Signatories on P & C accounts: Motion put that President, 2 Vice presidents be new signatories. There is an auditor willing to do the auditing for the P & C. P & C bank accounts – the P & C is looking into higher interest accounts, and improving access to account information.

Minutes and next meeting agenda will be sent out to everyone by email.

Meeting ended 9pm