BGHS P & C Meeting of 15th February 2012

Meeting opened in School Hall at 7.30pm following the Year 7 parents and students Welcome BBQ.

Mia Kumar sends her apologies, as she is currently travelling in Switzerland.

Deputy Principal gave announcements about staff changes in various subjects this year, including Vivian Webb new Admin person in the office.

2011 School Certificate results – the school performed well overall, with high % of students in bands 5/6

2011 HSC Results – 8 students in top all rounders (band 6 in all subjects), BGHS in top 100 schools in state 61+. Only comprehensive public high school that did better was Killara High.

Priorities for 2012-14:

Leadership and Management; Curriculum and Assessment Literacy and Numeracy, Engagement

Outcomes Intended outlined: perhaps more publicity needed on school’s performance. New structure for school organization to support student wellbeing initiatives in middle and senior school. Each year group has a head teacher, year advisor and Assistant Year Advisor, also Head teacher Welfare, Deputy Principal, School Counsellor and Support Teacher.

Expectations for parents: support learning – strive for blue and gold awards each semester; reinforce the importance of literacy and numeracy and find ways to “make it real”; Encourage participation in extra-curricular and Gifted and Talented initiatives eg debating; ensure daughter is using the school diary – more room this year to note down homework; Support well-being and happiness; ask for help if needed; make contact with parents of her friends to work together and keep them safe.

The year so far: Lorin Nicholson, blind since birth, a wonderful guest speaker; Year 7 have met the Band program; Welcome back afternoon tea for 2011 HSC students; “Best swimming carnival ever” at Ashfield pool.

Plans for 2012: parents and the school to work together.

HSC results 2011: best results ever. Some Stats: 184 candidates for HSC; 46 percent - almost half received a merit a mark of 90 or above; 20 percent of all exams sat received a merit 62 percent of all exams sat received a Band 5 or better. Top positions in the state in Food technology, Chinese background speakers, Legal studies, Indonesian continuers, Japanese beginners, Korean continuers, Russian background speakers. ATARs of 98 plus – 12 girls. Premier’s Awards – 8 girls received merits in 10 units or more. In 41 out of 45 subjects, the averages were above the State level. Results in each HSC subject were shown in graphs against the state average: highlights were 20 merits in Advanced English; French continuers: half the students got merits; History extension, half of students got merits; Indonesian continuers 5 of 6 received merits; Italian continuers: 4 students, 3 merits; Japanese Beginners 14 students, 6 merits; Legal Studies 49 students; 17 merits; Maths: 68 students, 13 merits; Maths Ext 1 and 2 many merits;

School Certificate: last time it will be run as an external exam – 3 students got 90 percent or above, 8 students averaged 90 percent. Overall results above state averages. The data is important as it can indicate the need for teacher support to lift results in particular subjects: the data is used to take actions to lift results.
Alice Magoffin P & C president took over: Introduced P & C members.

Agenda: 7pm starts for meetings in the Library; parents should receive SMS reminders including agendas; Business arising: issue of religious education in the school. Scripture classes in long recesses on Tuesdays outside of class time. Proposal to introduce special sessions during class time in the hall, and majority of students opted out however students not involved had to have free time. Karen said that system is continuing in the school this year. The P and C wanted the issue to be canvassed more broadly with parents of school students.

Karen: What's happening: School was approached by a Christian group re year 7-10 religious seminars, one period every Friday during teaching time – only one quarter to one third of students opted to attend. The religious group pushed on to appoint a person to run scripture lessons on Mondays Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Year 7 classes – parents need to opt out if they do not want students to attend. This is in addition to Tuesday scripture. The school executive sees this as a trial and if there is a lack of support from the school community, the P and C and the School Council then the program will be discontinued. Year 7 students who opt out will have to have free time. A question was asked of 2012 year 7 students at interviews as to whether they wished to do scripture, and the majority did not.

Motion put that parents be sent an “Opt in” note not an “opt out” note – put by Effie, seconded by Chery Kemp; Motion passed by a majority of 32, 2 against. Motion Carried.

The P and C and the School Council both remains concerned that further scripture lessons should not have proceeded without further extensive consultation with parents, and a remaining concern about the erosion of class time.

Motion put by Effie, seconded by Elaine: That the current Year 7s attending scripture students make up lost lesson time in their own time and that normal classes be run during scripture time for opting out students. Voted: For: overwhelming support: 1 against. Motion carried.

Suggestions from parents for P & C meeting agenda: New parents have some explanation about what subjects are, how broad they are, so parents can understand what students are studying. A run-down of subjects can be done as part of a P and C meeting. Also Board of Studies website also contains useful info.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm