Minutes Burwood Girls P & C meeting Wednesday 16 May 2012

Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Present: as per attendance sheet

Apologies: Elaine

Principal’s report/Deputy’s report

There were a fabulous series of events over last term –
- International Day, 22 March with a session on “Close the Gap” re indigenous Australians and performance of “From little things big things grow”.
- New Korean teacher Qeefaa An and Maria Hong, Korean liaison officer started at the school, working with our Korean students. Maria has been fantastic and a great asset to the school. Qeefaa is also a community officer in Hornsby area, as well as being a teacher. BGHS is one of the few schools offering 4 Asian languages and 2 European languages.
- Wonderful national dresses and foods were seen on International Day. Mia dressed in hand-made African style for the occasion.
- 26 March Year 11/12 Parent/teacher night;
- 28 March Rags to riches - fashion show of garments made from recycled materials;
- 29 March Shakespeare festival;
- 30 March Year 9 got their laptops and laptop workshop.
- Tamara Ambrose, an elite diver won diving awards and is off to National diving championships.
- Gold Duke of Edinburgh walk 20-23 April for 4 days for gold and silver awards.
- The school Band played at events including Anzac Day.
- Staff workshops held on quality teaching and learning.
- Asian literacy across the curriculum staff changes.
- 2 May a fabulous Variety night was held.
- Senior concert tour 7-9 May (some bus problems).
- Mia Kumar, Principal, made an official visit to Vietnam on 7-16 May. Mia trialled group work in a Vietnamese classroom (very different from their usual learning style).
- Hip hop assembly on 14 May. A hip hop group who will be performing on Australian Idol performed at the assembly.
- New toilet block with 20 new loos opened for business last Tuesday - some initial plumbing problems to be resolved.
- NAPLAN testing underway.
- SRC planning meeting on 16 May

Note: There will be a Teacher’s Federation Stop work meeting next Friday till 11am roll call.

Guest Speaker Kathy Lye - PDHPE, example lesson Year 10 - rights and responsibility and safety strategies, what they perceive as a risk, when they would feel unsafe. This gets students to think about when and where they may be at risk and how to put in place safety plans and risk management strategies. 6 types of strategies - the lessons get the students to construct their own knowledge in current situations. The strategies are awareness, avoidance, reducing the risk, distancing, assertiveness and personal safety support networks. The worksheets are on Moodle as well, so students can gain access on their laptops. The lessons encourage
students to talk about situations and safety strategies they may have used. The students are asked to suggest safety strategies for particular situations. The unit also discusses assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Many students mention in discussions issues such as drink spiking, date rape, and issues at workplaces (eg dealing with aggressive customers).

**Correspondence received**
- P & C journal
- various fund-raising flyers (this is usually left to students not the P & C). Mia said the Sydney Swans phoned her re a raffle ticket sale where 50% of profits go to the school if the school promote the raffle. The Deputy Principal will follow this up via email.

**Parent comment:** AFL western girls is based at Croydon Park.

Year 7’s are going to start the Premier’s sporting challenge in the near future. The school is also involved in the Coles fundraisers for schools program.

**Business Arising**

School blazers - initial order of 30 made. Some marketing needs to be done - Mia suggested promote at School assembly and in the School newsletter, perhaps also an SMS message to parents letting them know the blazers are available. Mia suggested finding out how the Uniform shop deals with second-hand (good condition) uniform items (eg do they pay for them?). The blazers will not be compulsory, but encouraged particularly for students attending events outside school.

Treasurer’s report - treasurer not present, so no treasurer’s report presented at this meeting.

The President said that the contract between the uniform shop and the P & C (in terms of legal formalities) needs review. Effie and Alice will follow this up. Mia commented all employees are covered by the school’s insurance. Mia commented that the uniform shop improved operating hours - half day on Tuesday and half day on Thursday- has been working well for parents.

Alice (President) suggested following up new ideas for improving the school grounds with P & C funds. Mia suggested talking to the SRC and prefects about possibilities - eg handball courts, giant chess sets, other suggestions. One parent suggested a roof over the school bubblers, which are not very clean currently. Mia said that there are some covered bubblers.

One parent suggested a school fete be considered for fund-raising, however others considered that the P & C does not have enough members able to volunteer to organise a fete.

Mia noted some gardens have been improved recently by community services students (agapanthus donated to the school have been planted).

A parent raised the issue of unflued gas heaters. The Dept will only replace them in about 10 years - in the meantime teachers have to leave windows open when the gas heaters are on. Mia commented the school doesn’t have any of the really old unflued gas heaters, and the library has air-conditioning.

Suggestions for future P & C meeting presentations - assessment procedures for senior students; elective choices and what happens in year 11; the different ways that English is taught now. Visual arts, science and technology and what skills are being taught and how this
leads to specialities in senior science; middle schooling focus and how that is working (maybe for later in the year).

In Year 7 there is an accelerated maths program. Students are chosen through sitting a test. This is the first time it has operated and is an outcome of the “student voice” program to assist the more talented maths students. This is currently only a Year 7 trial.

One of the Year 7 parents mentioned that parents are confused about the extra-curricular activities which are on offer and how these opportunities are accessed. There needs to be more parent information on extra-curricular activities available at or through the school. Mia said that notices go out to students at roll call every morning re auditions etc, however it is agreed that parents aren’t always informed. Mia said that the school will look into putting more info on this issue on the school website. Information of what students are involved in is gathered on enrolment forms, however the school may not be using this information most effectively currently. The Event newsletter and the website do include a lot of important dates. Parent comment: There is also some conflict between auditions eg. Monday lunchtime’s dance and drama auditions conflict.

Mia said the annual school report is on the school website and mentions changes to Geography teaching at the school to make Geography more interesting.

Parent suggestion: is it possible to have a set day of the week when notices come out and are posted on the website? Response was this is not possible, events are notified when details have been finalised, however perhaps more effort could be made to finalise events details sooner.

Next meeting presentation will be on the way school assessments are done.
The Meeting finished at 9.05pm.