Burwood Girls High School P and C meeting of Wednesday 17th October 2012

Present: As per attendance book

Welcome by Alice Magoffin, Meeting opened 7.20pm

**Guest Speakers:** Michelle Kals, Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts and Amy Yongsiri, Visual Arts teacher, on the school’s Creative Arts program

Visual Arts is important is teaching students how to interpret images and to develop student’s confidence and skills to encourage more autonomous learning. Students are learning the skills in putting artworks together. Students spend a term in each Visual Arts room to learn different skills.

With Year 7 students come to school with a variety of experiences of art, and teaching is too expand student’s idea of art. Drawings of themselves based on photos increase their confidence. In the printmaking room drawings are developed into block prints and sculptures made from wire and tissue paper, and claywork.

In Year 8 abstract sculptures based on buildings and an illustration program, looking at medieval manuscripts for models. Students also produced glazed pottery based on non-fish marine creatures, and “tape” sculptures of people, working in teams. Visual design students in ceramics made fruit bowls.

Students have opportunities to exhibit their work in the art foyer, and also outside the school. Year 9 students have created artworks on canvas which are going on exhibition at Rhodes this weekend, Also student works have been exhibited. Some students go to the National Art School for extension work every year. An online “face art” competition and art exchange projects.

Year 10 did still life paintings. Beautiful works.

Years 9 and 10 animation, photography, Photoshop and graphics.

Year 10 did architectural photography, which involved studies of modernist photographers. Last year a student documentary (Year 9) on “Motion” won the Robin Anderson film award last year. The media room (MAC room) has industry software to assist students with film making.

With Year 11, students start off in a dark-room using traditional black and white film. Some of the students’ work went in an art exchange with a US high school.

Year 12 is the culmination of 5 years of work. Exploration of concepts: students direct their own work, choose their own medium. Teachers are there to guide, not direct. This year every medium was covered.
Special project with Year 8: Enter the Dragon mural (to celebrate the year of the dragon). 6m long and 2m high. To be made of tiles (purchased bisque-fired). Every student gets a tile and puts on a design from learning on Asian cultures. This will be mounted on the wall near the music steps. Students researched traditional decorative designs in Asian cultures (China, India, Korea, Japan, Indonesia). This project has engaged Year 8 to such an extent, that the school is hoping to initiate more such projects with the students in other years.

Special project Year 9 photographic and digital imaging students in cooperation with University researchers. “Reimagining the City”. Students mapped routes and created a postcard on how wonderful Burwood is. Students projects include an interactive artwork, a soundscape and a short film trailer on Burwood’s sordid past, an animation about Burwood railway Station (one of the first in Sydney); an interactive “farm” sculpture, a parallel Burwood through graphic maps and concertina books.

Students will be presenting these works in “Art in the Park” with the permission of Burwood Council. This is on Monday week during the day in the gazebo in Burwood Park.

Principal’s Report
Successes: The visual arts program, languages, significant no., of events. Year 8/9 subject selection night, Year 7 STARR day, Dance Showcase, Wear It Purple Day 7 September: to support students at risk from homophobic comments etc. Our students were involved with students of Dubbo High School about bullying issues. The Proud Schools Project a purple wall was prepared with purple hearts and Ashfield Police sent a purple car. Year 11 exams, Year 7 GAT, Old Girls visit, Year 12 Graduation: chaired by new school captains, catered by hospitality students; cake provided by the P and C. The Year 12 year advisors were presented with flowers. New student leaders elected and a prefects’ workshop was held today. Year 8 Save the Orangutans – students wrote to Indonesian and Malaysian governments with concerns about palm oil plantations’ impact on orangutans. The Year 12 concert was stunning. Also Sydney Region Music Festival at the Sydney Opera House and Burwood Girls looked fantastic and played brilliantly.

New careers advisor started. Korean language will be only new subject for Year 9 next year (6 languages offered).

Future events; Duke of Edinburgh walks, Hospitality Work placement week 22-26 October, Principals DEC Korea visit, Year 11 presentation evening, Year 11 orientation for new students (about 20 to 30 new students expected), Year 6 interviews 15-23 November, P and C AGM 21 November; Schools Spectacular 23 November, Anne Beams Writers Awards 26 November; A Little Night Music 28 November. Presentation Day 14 December.
Planning for 2013:
- Year 7 classes (170) Diamonds, Hockeyroos, Matildas, Opals, Stingers, Wallaroos
- Staffing changes
- Merit selection representation
- School Plan with focus on 3 areas: middle schooling, quality teaching and learning, student leadership
- Annual school report for 2012
- Proud Schools implementation. This will involve a parent forum, possibly as part of the P and C AGM: maybe start the AGM meeting early, at 6pm. This needs to be done before the end of the year as the school is part of a pilot program.
- School Naplan results in Year 7 and 9: good results in numeracy, but more work needed on punctuation and grammar. Writing is an area which needs more focus – the school is working with the inner west learning community in improving teacher training re writing.

Re: removal of Council road from school land.
The Minister for Education has written to the local MP to say that he agrees with the School’s position re the removal of the roadway from the school grounds and restoration of the turf by the end of January 2013.

Treasurer’s report:
Uniform shop accounts presented. $5318 balance as of today. 7 blazers have been sold. Another 10 blazers have been ordered in different sizes. The blazers are being pushed to Years 10 and 11.

Motion put and passed to pay all uniform shop bills.

P and C balance of $10,455.22.

2 reports accepted. Motion put and seconded, and passed. At least another $5000 will be transferred before the end of the year from the Uniform Shop to the P and C account.

Discussion re rodents in the uniform shop and around the school generally. Principal felt that this was a whole school problem that should be addressed.

General business:
- Updated list available as to who has paid P and C contributions.
- Use of P and C money: more seating is being asked for by students. The school would also like to plant more trees. At least 4 sets of picnic tables with seating are needed. Motion to purchase more picnic tables with seating for the school put, seconded, and passed.
- Discussion re signage to buildings such as the hall and to signpost for disabled access, raised by P and C. Principal to investigate.
- Discussion re future presentations. Next year for the first P and C for the Year 7 BBQ, presentation of HSC results should be done in the first normal P and C
meeting, not at the Year 7 welcome BBQ. At the Year 7 welcome BBQ, more information should be given re how students get involved in school events. More info should be given to parents re Celebration of Learning day and what exactly happens on the day.

- Re: scripture teaching in Year 7, SRE seminars in every term. The scripture teachers are working on a survey for parents. Questions re scripture have been changed for Year 6 interviews. Less than a third of Year 7 students attend, and numbers haven’t changed.

Meeting closed at 9pm.