ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Parents & Friends Association

Meeting minutes

Date: Friday, 16th September 2016

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: Parent room

Present: Kate Hooke, Lyndall McDonald, Venessa Sims, Sonya Wallace, Charmaine Andrews, Julieanne Campbell, Ellan Allan, Karen Hardie, Sharon Francis, Nikki McPherson, Chris Burns, Honor McGill, Margaret Nicholas and Colleen Templeton

Apologies: Natalie Jones, Sandra Mahoney, Barry Shanley and Louise Miller

Meeting opened: Prayer lead by Sonya Wallace

Business from previous minutes to discuss:

No prior business to discuss.

Incoming / Outgoing Correspondence

Nothing to share

President’s Report

Sonya presented Natalie’s report on her behalf. Natalie would like to remind all parents that if they have any comments, feedback or ideas for the P&F, we would welcome your views via sjf.parentsandfriends@gmail.com.

Treasurer’s Report

Funds available as at 31st August 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Account</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;F Cheque Account</td>
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<td>P&amp;F Cash Management Account</td>
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DPC Report

SJF recently hosted a Cluster Meeting for the Central Coast for Term 3 on 26th July. Special thanks to Marissa Alexander for baking brownies for this event. Guests welcomed the hospitality of SJF and asked if they could have further meetings at our school. Discussion revolved around how each school’s P&F operated and one school wanted to know if they could have Barry as Principal for their school. They were quickly told NO!

A literacy workshop was presented by Jane Denny @ SJF with a very poor response of only 6 people attending. Families are encouraged to try and attend these events that are free of charge and can provide extremely worthwhile information.

CSO Parent Education Workshop – 1, 2, 3 Magic – Building Emotional Intelligence & Managing Behaviour held at Warnervale and East Gosford. Honor McGill will run this again at SJF next year.

The Roger Sullivan Family, School & Community Partnership Award with a $4,000 cash prize was introduced. Honor was very interested in this and will talk further to Barry – however the deadline was closing by end of term.

Social Committee

Grandparent’s Day – another huge success

Father’s Day stall & breakfast – went ahead extremely well despite the rain and poor weather.

Teachers Day is Friday, 14th October – P&F to organise Teacher’s lunch

End of Year Raffle

Kate has expressed that she needs assistance in securing / attracting prizes to be donated for the raffle. Kate indicated that they would like a CASH prize as the major prize this year and has yet to find any local businesses that are prepared to contribute to this. 3rd Prize is hopefully a Kayak and Kate is hoping to hear back from Anaconda soon. 4th & 5th prize is already taken care of. Kate is hoping that school families or local businesses can come forward to help with donation items, otherwise we will be need to purchase prize items. Kate also acknowledged that since we have just had the Robinson Family fundraiser, all local businesses have already been approached. It was suggested that a note must be emphasised in the school newsletter to get families to come forward. Everyone in attendance at the meeting would make a commitment to see what they could come up with to support Kate in this process.

Gingerbread House Night – Charmaine has this all organised for Friday, 2nd December

Principal’s Report – Shared by Chris Burns

Chris shared some current research material and SJF policy on homework. Chris also discussed that the research outlines both positive and negative outcomes of homework. The research is stating that for homework to be beneficial it requires timely feedback to the students. This is almost impossible to achieve for every student, without it clearly impact in key learning time.
Parents were invited to share their views about homework and views expressed include:

- homework should be a revision of what has been taught in class – emphasis on Spelling, Mathematics and Reading;
- project style homework tasks are really beneficial as they teach children research skills

Chris mentioned that SJF is looking at a grid / task board style of homework format. Many parents are already familiar with this approach and supported this style as long as it is something that children can complete with limited parent assistance.

Chris also shared that Barry is considering having limited homework during Term 4, without neglecting the important aspects of reading each night. This idea was well supported by parents who acknowledge that Term 4 is a busy time for children, teachers and parents who are often tired. Homework preparation takes considerable time for teachers and end of year reports also need to be compiled.

**General Business**

Honor McGill raised the new Parent Room

- P&F needs to assist with sorting store room
- Honor will need volunteers to help clean this out
- Honor would like to have an ‘Open Day’ in Term 4
- A huge credit needs to be extended to Ross for all his hard work
- Honor would like to see the Parent Room to be a school community room that has booking procedures – Chris mentioned that it has already been used for a Principal’s meeting.

**2017 Newsletter Advertising**

Colleen enquired whether it would be fair to raise the annual advertising fee to $200 per ad. Everyone agreed that this is more than fair and reasonable. Colleen will also forward a note to Ranee to place an “Expression of Interest” in the newsletter. This will invite any SJF families who would like to be placed on a waiting list in the event that currently advertised businesses no longer wish to advertise in 2017. Colleen will also start the process of contacting all businesses on the back of the newsletter and then forward their details to Sandra so that she can organise invoices to be forwarded. Colleen will also liaise with Lakes Printers before the end of Term 4 and contact Jan in the office to confirm the quantity.

Meeting closed at 2:50pm.