

PTA 2014/2015 - Agenda for Meeting 1

Date – 20/08/2014

Time – 6pm

Location – Room 212

ATTENDING

PP1		Camila Giannella	CG
PP2		Juliana Mendonça	JMP
P1	Secretary	Robert Davies	RD
P2		Daniela Preti Magalhaes	DM
P3	Chair	Adriana Sancovsky Shor	AS
P4		Susan Purdie	SP
P5		Maria Pasquatti	MP
F1		Mariana Tarraf Conte	MTC
F2		Angelica de Diego	AdD
F5		Leda Machado	LM
L6		Maria Martha Costa Mace	MCM
U6		Analia Pescio Valentini	APV

Head	Ms. Simpson	LS
Deputy Headmaster	Mr. Morgan	PM
Prep School	Mrs. Allum	SA
Diretora Oficial	Dna. Silvia Siqueira	SS

APOLOGIES

F4	Treasurer	Marjorie Marshall	MM
PP3		Gabriela Rinzler Mizne	GM
F3		Beatriz Madureira	BM
Pre- Prep School		Dr. Baldisseri	AHB

ACADEMIC ISSUES

1. *Feedback on insights from Parent Survey carried out in May, 2014:* Ms Simpson endorsed surveys in general as a very useful way of getting opinions from pupils and parents amongst other channels and will be using them broadly. She has not had time yet to review the last survey from May, but will.
2. *IGCSE & IB results, plus university places achieved. Any data/analysis to share?*
School delighted with the recent results as stated in Ms Simpson's letter in the Paulean. More details will be published as full results are finalized.

3. *As a parental body we are pleased to hear that you are doing a benchmarking effort, as we have had a feeling of a certain lack of how St Paul's stands in the international schooling community.* IB school results are not ranked and published however the school thinks it would be useful to have some benchmark data that would allow us to compare St Paul's against a comparable UK and International set of schools. The idea will be to track progress over time. More will be communicated on how the school will use and share this data.
4. *U6 appeals process and associated organization: will there be changes?* The IBO has a good reputation regarding consistency and standardization around results (compared to UK examination boards). However, schools should hold exam boards to account and enquire about results where it is pertinent to do so. After that, if not satisfied, an appeals process may be initiated. Papers can be remarked and grades changed. The school will do this when they believe there is a significant mis-match. Ms Simpson also gave examples where students can influence UK University entry decisions by the student personally calling to the university to 'lobby' on their own behalf!

TRAFFIC + SECURITY

1. *RD to propose ways to move forward:* An outline of the proposals for Juquiá and for increasing bus usage was discussed. Ms Simpson asked to review these proposals in detail with a view to implementing the first changes in Juquiá before this coming half term.
2. *PTA to communicate to parents:* A communication will go out to the parents in the next week updating them on where we are in the process.

DIVERSE MATTERS

1. *Some parents wish to see new gym. Would this be possible?* An invitation will be going out once details have been finalized. There will be a formal opening ceremony.
2. *New building: is there an update on any modifications from last year's design and/or on timing of contracting and executing?* The designs are being finalized. The school is optimistic about the project. Clearly there are no specific start-finish dates as yet.
3. *ECA/PASA offer*
 - *Is there a role for PTA to help redesign ECA/PASA offer? Plus logistics?*
 - *More urgently, there appears to be a need for a policy around current situation*
 - o *Parents, drivers and nurses watching PASA/ECA/changing room policies*
 - o *Information/communications regarding cancellation, rainy days, etc*School will endeavour to get the programme out earlier to facilitate parents/pupil choices.

School is looking closely at its policy relating to access of people to the school in general with respect to safeguarding. But specifically relating to ECA/PASA the school will come back to the PTA at some point in the near future.

The PTA's offer to look at ECA offers was happily accepted, and the PTA is free to bring proposals to the appropriate heads of school for their consideration on the understanding that there are limitations to space and resources and that behaviour issues need to be addressed.

4. *Uniforms*

- *Issues with quality and offer particularly of sports shirts (change over policy)*
- *Is there a role for PTA to help with this?*

The points were noted and parents should feel free to express their concerns to the school.

Mrs Simpson requested some time before coming to a position on any potential role for the PTA.

5. *Contacting the school: perception that it is getting harder logistically (by phone) even though philosophically open.*

- *During school hours*
- *After school*
- *For emergencies after school (school trips, sporting events, etc)*

Parents are encouraged to use email during school hours for non-emergencies to contact any member or staff.

The school is grateful to parents for the positive response to the new absence reporting procedures.

After hours and particularly for emergencies, the school has internal processes that will channel those calls to the appropriate people.

A telephone number for group leaders exists on all communication material prior to trips for emergencies.

Mr Morgan's number is available to the PTA.

6. *School Base: operational issues.*

The school is very concerned if access to putting information into this database is difficult for parents and is going to be looked at immediately.

7. *Firefly.* Teachers have been set deadlines to have this system operational with the pupils (starting with Senior school). It will be rolled out as a parental portal to allow you to see what your children are doing.. this should happen sometime next year.

The school is very excited about this platform and its capabilities particularly around information management, schemes of work and content creation, uploading and management. Watch this space. Talk to your children in senior school about this, right now. Prep will be up and running later this term.

DATES – EVENTS & LECTURES

1. *Options to invest R\$55k of PTA funds allocated to school activities?*

There was a good discussion about how the PTA can help to fund activities that are not covered within the school's budget or focus for this coming year but are of importance to parents. The immediate list proposed includes;

a. eSafety for parents at home, teachers at school, pupils themselves was seen as very useful and timely.

b. Sexual awareness programme will be looked at this year.

However, it was agreed that a more formal process could be put in place and that

each of the three schools will discuss with the PTA reps of that school about possible additional requests.

2. AOB: food: Ms Simpson said that the school would be happy to receive groups of 2 or 3 parents at a time to come and sample the food and be able to give direct feedback to their children that it is actually 'not that bad' (or better!)

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.