

PTA 2014/2015 – Minutes for Meeting 6

Date – Wed 15/4/2015

Time – 8.30 – 9.45am

Location – Chapel

IN ATTENDANCE

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------|-----|
| PP1 | | Camila Giannella | CG |
| PP2 | | Juliana Mendonça | JMP |
| PP3 | | Gabriela Rinzler Mizne | GM |
| P1 | Secretary | Robert Davies | RD |
| P2 | | Daniela Preti Magalhaes | DM |
| P3 | Chair | Adriana Sancovsky Shor | AS |
| P4 | Absent | Susan Purdie | SP |
| P5 | | Maria Pasquatti | MP |
| F1 | Absent | Mariana Tarraf Conte | MTC |
| F2 | Absent | Angelica de Diego | AdD |
| F3 | | Beatriz Madureira | BM |
| F4 | Absent | Kyone Ogura | KO |
| F5 | | Leda Machado | LM |
| L6 | Treasurer | Maria Martha Costa Mace | MCM |
| U6 | | Analia Pescio Valentini | APV |

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|----------------------|----------------|-----|
| Head & Senior School | Ms. Simpson | LAS |
| Deputy Headmaster | Mr. Morgan | PM |
| Prep School | Mrs. Allum | SA |
| Pre Prep School | Dr. Baldisseri | AHB |
| Bursar | Mr. Sapsezian | NS |

Academic issues

In the strategic plan there was a focus on differentiating between pupils of different talents. We understand that this will be classroom focused. Many pupils have asymmetric performance in related subjects (eg Physics and Biology, or English and History). This might indicate that different teachers may relate differently to individual pupils and get different results.

How will "learning support" develop to support this and will there be differences between the Prep and Senior schools, or across subjects/skill sets? How much of a sharing culture does the school have in which teachers with struggling pupil might reach out to a teacher who is getting better results from that pupil? Is this encouraged both in formal and informal interactions?

Ms Simpson stated that the LSU provides academic support for the school, supporting the teachers and departments to give the very best teaching.

The five members of the department should be actively supporting the teachers in their lessons both with individual children and with the teachers. Occasionally they might want to withdraw children from classes and bring them to the Learning Support Unit. There should be rigorous systems to identify children with learning difficulties on a regular basis. This is focused on PP and P but there will also be screening in the senior school as well. The focus should be, of course, on providing solutions and help resolve problems not just identification. There is a dual focus of helping pupil and teacher.

The role includes making sure that there is a 'counselling' role within the school where students feel at ease reaching out to someone, be it teacher or other, that they can confide in. It shouldn't be a single person, but the pastoral system should make sure that the culture is set correctly.

Mrs Carneiro Leão, the Head of the LSU will write a fuller description of the function for the beginning of the next school year and distribute this to all parents including newcomers.

Traffic

The Board of Governors has asked the school to develop alternatives to improve enforcement of the new traffic rules implemented last year. These will include the use of cameras to better identify cars and their owners that are not respecting the other users of the road, as well as a new petition to the CET to change the timings of the traffic light.

Mr. Sapsezian is following up with the CET on the issue and there some links to the previous project.

The PTA asked the school to communicate its position vis-à-vis not putting school staff on the street and how it believes it will help to resolve the issue to return to the positive goodwill generated in the implementation phase in October. Ms Simpson agreed to this.

PTA Fund raising

Martha (Treasurer) updated the PTA on the cash position of R\$33,250.00 as of the 31st of March.

Used uniform sale raised R\$5425.35.

The International Day preparations are underway and we are hoping to raise significant funds for the school's charities as well as to create a great community event for the school.

School charities

As a tradition the school had casual clothes day on the last day before carnival (Friday 13th February) and also one on the last day of Reading Week (Friday 5th March) which we call "Relax into Reading".

Liga Solidaria

The project between PP3 and Liga Solidaria was developed since last term when we talked with the children about what it means to play and where we play at St. Paul's. Having done this, we voted our playground as the place where we most like to play. The PP3 children also wrote posters and went to the other Pre-Prep classrooms and campaigned for the children to bring Easter eggs for Liga Solidaria.

The PP3 children went to Crèche Primavera of Liga Solidaria, showed the small 3 year olds their books and played with them. The children visited St. Paul's the following week (before Easter), played in the playground and took an Easter egg home.

Last term the Form 5s did community service work at Liga. This term it is the turn of Form 4. Part of their induction includes an initial talk from one of workers at Liga. So far we have had 2 visits, both of which have been highly successful. The last of the visits will take place as a whole day activity in the last week of term.

IB CAS

All the Upper Sixth have now successfully completed their CAS component of the IB.

The Lower Sixth are working on the, now, annual Teto Bazaar, hoping to raise as much money as possible for them to go and build houses for the less privileged through the NGO Teto next August. The Bazaar will take place on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May.

TUCCA

The Lower Sixth were invited to volunteer to go to TUCCA on Tuesday 17th March. The pupils were asked to write a reason on Firefly as to why they wanted to go. In the end 19 Lower Sixth pupils and the three Charity & Community Service Prefects went for the morning.

This term the Forms 1 to 3 Community Service ECA have also been organising visits to TUCCA.

There are five groups and all of them have will be spending a morning there.

Prep School

During the second term, the Prep School has had their yearly bake sales, with which we raise money for the three charities of the school (Prep 1 R\$1,031.00, Prep 2 R\$1,431.05 and Prep 5 R\$1,928.05). We also had a very successful joint student council bake sale where student council reps from the senior and prep school, brought in and sold healthy snacks. During Prep Parents Open Day, four teachers took 20 prep children who gave up their 'no school day' to go to Liga Solidaria, teach the children there how to make a paper craft and play with them. We also took 490 Easter eggs we bought with money from the Prep 2 bake sale.

This term we also have been very musical and both the Prep Rock and Pop concert and the Prep Musical Buggy Malone (yet to happen) will raise money for the three charities of the term.

At the end of last term, Prep 2's focused on their topic "They Made a Difference", where they learnt about famous/significant people and the effect those people had on the world. They looked at different ways we can make a difference, not necessarily in the world, but in our day to day, in school, at home, etc. They also saw how Art plays an important role in our lives and how we can use it to make a difference. Keeping that in mind, one of the Art activities done in class was designing a mug inspired by Romero Britto's work. Teachers then explained to the pupils how the purpose of this Art work was to raise money for charity. At the end of the lesson, one design per class was chosen and printed on to a mug and raffled amongst Prep 2 parents. They all put a lot of effort into their work, using bright colours, black lines, patterns and shapes – signature features of Romero Britto's work. The winning mug designs were raffled and we received many bids. All bids went to TUCCA. TUCCA bought "pinças bipolares permanentes e Isocool Codman, fabricadas pela Codman Neuro". (R\$10,533)

We also continue to collect ring pulls and will be taking 4 big boxes full of bottled ring pulls to FRATO who in exchange will give us two wheel chairs that we will donate.

To date, the money raised for the three school charities is as follows (by the school and not the PTA):

| TUCCA | Liga | ACER |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| R\$17,438.85 | R\$8,447.20 | R\$23,478.85 |

Financial support from PTA for school projects

The PTA has been spending some time thinking about where it would like to support the school with special projects. The PTA would like to recommend to the school that we reorganise the way we interact with the school to build a long list of suggestions that would then be filtered by the PTA in the allocation of funds and the overall impact on fund-raising (along with charities). The idea would be to send a list to heads of schools and departments.

The philosophy the PTA has discussed would be to focus on the 'over and above' spending and investment that the school can achieve on its own.

Ms Simpson saw both these initiatives as very positive.

Specific ideas were discussed and budget holders will be asked to submit 'wish list' items on their budget submission in the next few weeks. The PTA will then be able to give every request due consideration and can prioritise its spending.

The PTA would like to note that we approved Mr Ward's request to buy rather than rent audio equipment for the school plays and have provided the difference between rental and purchase of the equipment for this year.

It has also funded part of the e-awareness programme this term. Not all was funded. The school funded the majority.

AOB

Other:

Rebecca Owen, the new Assistant Head for Enrichment was introduced to the PTA. She has been here for two weeks and is very excited and enthusiastic about joining the school next year. She describes her new role as the "enrichment of pupils' lives", focusing on the ECA's and linking the three schools.

Invitation to join the board. Many parents are aware that there are potential changes to the personnel on the Board on-going and are asking us if and/or how they can become candidates. On behalf of the parental body we would like the Board to communicate to parents about the criteria for board membership, what qualities they might be looking for and what the process for applying and for selection are. It might be useful if the board could inform more publicly when such elections take place, and with what frequency.

Ms Simpson reported that new members are invited by the four trustees. Board members must be British passport holders. The board's chair is changing and new members will be coming on. If any parents have interest they should contact Ms Simpson.

Election for PTA: the process will begin soon. The PTA and Mr Morgan will communicate in an appropriate and timely fashion.