

## PTA 2014/2015 - Minutes for Meeting 2

Date – Wednesday 24/09/2014

Time – 8.15 – 9.30am

Location – Chapel

### IN ATTENDANCE

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PP1		Camila Giannella	CG
PP3		Gabriela Rinzler Mizne	GM
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
F3		Beatriz Madureira	BM
F5		Leda Machado	LM
L6		Maria Martha Costa Mace	MCM
U6		Analia Pescio Valentini	APV

Head		Ms. Simpson	LS
Deputy Headmaster		Mr. Morgan	PM
Senior School		Ms. Simpson	LS
Pre Prep School		Dr. Baldisseri	AHB
Bursar		Mr. Sapsezian	NS

### APOLOGIES

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PP2		Juliana Mendonça	JMP
F2		Angélica de Diego de Cardenas	AdD
F4	Treasurer	Marjorie Marshall	MM

Prep School		Mrs. Allum	SA
Diretora Oficial		Dra. Silvia Siqueira	SS

### CHARITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT (PM)

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#### Report for August and September 2014

We reminded ourselves that the three school charities are currently: School Charities: TUCCA (Associação para Crianças e Adolescentes com Câncer), ACER (Associação de Apoio à Criança em Risco) and Liga Solidária (Ligal das Sendoras Católicas de São Paulo)

The following is a list of the school's recent involvement with each of the three. We hope you find it interesting.

**\* ACER**

On Wednesday 27th August, Lee Ward organised a Workshop led by Mr Ward with the ACER Drummers and percussionists from the Prep School and the choirs of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and the Senior School.

On Saturday 18th October a number of pupils from the Sixth Form will be attending the Children's Day event at ACER in Diadema. This is being co-ordinated by Ms Smet. Starting next week pupils will be receiving books of raffle tickets for the annual draw that takes place on Children's Day. Raffle tickets come in books of 10 and cost R\$5.00 each.

**\*Form 1-3 Community Service ECA (Dr. Torres)**

Running 5 ECA sessions per week with 83 pupils and 8 teachers. They work with Casa dos Velinhos Ondina Lobo located in Santo Amaro. They have 3 morning trips per term. The first trip was on Wednesday 10th September. Pupils played games and talked with the elderly there, performed a small concert and read poetry to them, as well they run a session about how to decorate cupcakes and also manicure was given to them. Before the outing, a campaign was run (including two assemblies given to pupils, information published into the newsletter and one container was put at the front gate) to collect donations for them including adult diapers and goods for the bingo. To raise money they will be having a Bake Sale on Tuesday 28th October during Break Time.

**\*Form 5 Trip to Liga Solidária (Mrs. de Luca)**

On Thursday 4th September Form 5 went to visit Liga for the morning. The weather was not good which meant that they could not do any activities outside. This is the first of 2 trips that take place this term. Stuart House in F5 organised a Bake Sale and raised R\$575.80.

**Prep School event with Liga Solidária (Mrs Hughes)**

In the Prep School we work closely with Liga Solidaria. They were invited to come to school, as we usually go there at least twice a year and they have been wanting to come with some of their children. They brought a group of 25 children last Tuesday, 16th September. The group of children they brought were the 'music' group, children who play an instrument and/or sing in their choir. When they arrived, we gave them pao de queijo and juice. Then it was break time and they played football in the field with our pupils and table football. Some of the girls were whisked off by our Prep 3 girls and sat chatting and shared their picnic with the Liga Solidaria girls. Others ran around the field in pairs playing tag. After break we gathered at 10:00 in the Prep Multipurpose Space with Prep 3s and 4s to watch the children from Liga perform. They played several songs and sang accompanied by the instruments. They wanted to do this presentation as a means of thanking us for having donated some instruments some months ago. And after their 20 minute presentation, three pupils from each tutor group stayed behind. We are arranging for them to come again, a larger group and do some activities with our pupils, a bit like when we go over there, but here at school.

### \*TUCCA

Mrs Vidigal has been invited by the school to attend an assembly on a Friday morning for the F4, F5 and Sixth Form to talk about the work they do and to invite pupils from F5 upwards to come to their centre to spend a Saturday morning with the children.

### \*TETO

57 pupils (all the Upper Sixth and 10 Lower Sixth) spent the weekend 16-17th September in Mavinas community near Guarulhos to build 13 different houses for 13 families. The money needed to build the homes was raised at a bazaar that they organised at the end of last academic year.

### \*Monies raised to date and how this is currently distributed

Date	Event	Total	TUCCA	Liga	ACER
28-08-14	F5 Bake Sale	575.80		575.80	
Total		575.80		575.80	

### \*Forthcoming events (this term)

- Wednesday 24th September – Tudor House F5 Bakes Sale (9.35 – 9.55 in the Covered Area)
- Monday 29th September – Amnesty International ECA Bake Sale (3.05 – 4pm in the Covered Area).
- Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd October – PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale (7.30 – 8.30 and 2-4pm in the Covered Area).
- Friday 3rd October – Casual Clothes Day (Suggested minimum donation of R\$5 for Senior school. Prep and Pre-Prep will be collecting the following items for ACER: rice, beans, sugar, coffee, spaghetti and flour or tomato pulp).
- Saturday 18th October – Sixth Form CAS pupils to work as helpers at the Children’s Day event at ACER
- Wednesday 22nd October – Windsor House Form 5 Bake Sale (9.35 – 9.55 in the Covered Area)
- Tuesday 28th October – Form 1-3 ECA CS Bake Sale (9.35 – 9.55 in the Covered Area)
- Tuesday 4th November – F5 2nd visit to Liga Solidária
- Friday 28th November – TUCCA to present to the F4, F5 and Sixth Form in a morning assembly.
- Saturday 29th November – Inauguration of the Sports Centre
- There is currently discussion about what can be done at the end of the term to obtain Christmas gifts for children at Liga, Acer and/or TUCAA.

## ACADEMIC ISSUES

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### \* Sixth form issue

It was mentioned in the Equivalency Letter, that the school was studying an option for students who would not ‘do the full IB’ in the last school year. *What is the current status?*

*The school has a new Director of Studies who is working hard on a series of important themes. He will be*

reporting to the Board in October including his initial thoughts on the curriculum and academic matters, including the 6<sup>th</sup> form programme.

#### **\* Academic performance indicators**

Would it be possible to publish the course as well as the university for school leavers? This is particularly relevant in regards to the Brazilian Universities and an interesting piece of information for parents. The information goes to the board and Mrs Simpson feels that, within some limitations of the information not being consistent across countries, this could be easily added.

#### **\* Scholarships**

We would like to bring back to focus the issue of scholarships at St Paul's. Approximately five years ago a new scholarship was created for 10 students per year to enter in the Lower Sixth. A fund (Fundação St Paul's) was created at the time. The criteria for the students who would like to enter the school under this scholarship scheme are quite difficult to meet and the school has only managed two or three students.

PTA believes this Fundação could be more active and efficient and perhaps we can talk about how we can contribute.

Could the School please give us an update on the scholarship scheme(s)?

*This is an area in which Ms Simpson is very interested (fee support programmes) given her background in the UK. She is starting a 'blank sheet of paper' approach; there will inevitably be changes and developments.*

### GENERAL SHOOOL ISSUES

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#### **\*e-Safety**

100 parents appeared for lecture. It was a well-appreciated presentation, supported by school, that created changes already from many parents and a small group of parent volunteers from one year to continue to work on the issue.

- PTA is thinking through how to put some structure and energy behind this.
- Prep 4 PTA has been approached by a father and are working together (Susan Purdie)
- Prep 5 has started a group (Maria Pasquatti)

*Mr Morgan is looking at a UK-based consultancy that will address similar issues with school, teachers, parents, . . . perhaps early 2015. He is a high price point consultant who has worked at the highest level. It is focused on Parents, Teachers and Children together. The PTA expressed its appreciation and willingness to support this financially.*

#### **\*Smart phone policy**

We would like to understand what the school's policy is regarding owning, bringing to school and using during school time smart phones as we have heard different things in different pre-meetings.

- Should this be extended to tablets with 3G?
- How is this policy implemented?

*Ms Simpson said the Prep rules are that smart phones should be locked in lockers all day. In senior school there is greater trust and leeway. But if abused, then their phones are confiscated until end of day.*

*Additionally, Ms Simpson said that in the senior school technology is useful in school work. The focus should be on responsible usage rather than a series of rules to be enforced.*

*The policy applies also to iPads, although usage patterns are different.*

### **\* Eating food at school**

Issue: some children are not getting adequate food at lunch time and this is impacting ability to learn and behave in afternoon classes as well as worrying some parents. This might impact 20%-30% of prep for example.

Options:

- Possibility of offering quick lunch option
- Ability to bring pack lunch
- Tuck shop options could improve . . . and they sell out post-school . . .
- Better/more supervision.

*Ms Simpson said that she would look into different food options. There are some issues to work through but Nelson suggested that this is a question of trial and error on quantities and processes. Philosophically, Ms Simpson pointed out, that like armies "schools march on their stomachs" and would like to keep school lunch time a positive and important experience.*

*She also thinks that the breaks and lunch need to be rethought out in terms of the timings. This is a medium term plan and will take until at least until 2016 to work through the implications.*

Also: ambiance

- When will new equipment arise? Reform canteen with PTA Money?

*Ms Simpson said that this is a question of cost-benefit and priorities. There are some plans and they will look at those in the light of an offer from the PTA to pay.*

## **TRAFFIC + SECURITY**

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Launched last week through email to parents from Mr Morgan.

*Both School and PTA to reinforce communication and support implementation. Parents who have not signed up for the voluntary car registration scheme should click on the link below:*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/juquiatraffic>

*Mr Morgan said that Assemblies will focus on this next week and that he personally will be on the road the week of the 29th September.*

*The PTA will try to find ways to help the school to get better access to the CET in order to get the traffic light changed, the parking restrictions adapted and more presence from their agents.*

*Success should be measured as the ability to create and sustain a more just system with a (slightly) improved flow.*

*It was noted that the crossing on Gabriel Monteiro da Silva from the school side to/from Pao de Açucar is a significant safety risk and the PTA volunteers on the road highlighted that many parents and children are crossing on the little red man not waiting for the green man. This creates danger from the traffic turning right out of Juquiá. There is a similar but much less frequent risk on the left turn. The school said they would look into the option of a traffic monitor (lollipop person in English) for that crossing.*

## OTHER MATTERS

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### **\* General supervision of students at school**

Monitors for supervision including breaks, changing rooms, time between school and PTAs, includes queue jumping, smart phone usage, cell-phone usage, litter, shouting, litter, uniform supervision, noise, eating on premises etc. What is the school's view?

*Ms Simpson's preliminary view is that the children appear to be relatively well behaved and given the number of children and limited size of the space, the number of incidents and amount of litter appears less than many other schools.*

*Ms Simpson says there are 10 staff on duty and for a school this physical size it shouldn't be an issue of supervision, but will continue to work on the educational side of things reinforcing current reasonable behaviour.*

### **\* Sports**

The elevator doesn't work during certain times. We think that this might represent a H&S issue as the key needs to be easily accessible if someone needs to be taken up the injured. It took 20 mins last time. Needs a person/process to get the elevator switched on ASAP in emergency.

*Mr Sapsezian said that he will check to make sure that the staff have processes in place for this not to recur. There is a belief that this is a one off. But the school will be vigilant.*

Water for sports games.

*The school said that everyone is getting used to the new layout and that they will make sure that the sports department makes sure that adequate water is available.*

Is there sufficient protection on the basketball apparatus?

*Mr Sapsezian said he will look into this.*

### **\* Uniforms**

Sports: Please liberate swimming suits to be 'navy blue' to help to improve quality and reduce costs relative to the times that they will swim.

*Ms Simpson was happy to allow children wearing Navy Blue (Azul marinho) or Black, sports swimming trunks / costumes rather than the school's official kit.*

### **\* 'Racionamento de água'**

As we all know we are already facing a very real lack of water. One way for the school to collaborate would be to decrease the amount of uniforms used per child, therefore reducing the amount of clothes we wash at home. A possibility would be for the children to only wear their PE uniforms in the days they do PE and regular uniforms in the other days. What do you think?

*Ms Simpson and Mr Morgan said they would look into this for Prep 1. As well as letting boys wear shorts.*

### **\* Nurses**

We believe that a nurse can no longer medicate a child. Can we allow parents to bring a letter authorizing for a period of time the medication of their children with certain basic medicines?

*School will re-communicate this important message.*

### **\* Communication**

The Paulean is an important communication mechanism. We don't think, for multiple reasons, that it is as effective in its aims as it could be.

- The PTA would like to offer its support to help the school upgrade this communication channel. Are you open to this? How could we begin?

*School are looking into all branding and communications.*

*Including SchoolBase, which Mr Morgan says is undergoing some modifications.*

## **EVENTS**

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### **\* Second Hand Uniform Sale**

All set to happen on October 1st and 2nd, in covered area in front of PTA room.

### **\* Other events**

Regarding the Sports Event on Saturday 29th November; is there any additional information you can let us have or do we await the sports committee?

We would like to push back on the 'Staff Bazaar' as we believe this is low maintenance and highly valued by the staff including the less well paid teaching staff.

*Under review by the school. They will come back to PTA on this.*

**\* School community building events (Logo: School is cool!)**

Opportunity to do small events at school that increase the communication and community spirit with parents. Do this through enjoyable events that PTA can easily organize. This can be on or off premises.

Example for parents:

- Maria would like to give Yoga classes. Could we get this to work this term?
- Art lectures and possible 'field trip'

Example for pupils:

- "Movie Afternoons" using the concept of 'lounges'

Is the school supportive?

Would we have access to space for some of these ideas?

*Mrs Simpson was supportive of these ideas and the PTA should propose specific initiatives for the school's review.*

**\* Lectures**

We are discussing a series of new opportunities for lectures and lecturers. Nothing is finalised as yet.

We would like your feedback on:

- Dra Patricia Peck, specialist in digital rights. Focus mainly on parents, possibly some of the older children.
- Dra Ligia Duailibi: based on last year's feedback we are now focused on offering a workshop on sexuality. Opportunity to work with children starting in Prep 5.
- Drugs: specifically about maconha
- Other options: ADD and Depression

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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*None*