



Junior School Supporters' Group

General Meeting – Thursday 4th September 2014

Meeting Opened

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by President Becky Mammen.

Welcome to Marianne Connolly and Cheryl Wegener.

In Attendance

Marian Lynch, Becky Mammen, Richard Frenken, Marianne Connolly, Cheryl Wegener, Robyn Kozera, Kathy Lollback, Megan Hausmann, Sharon Young, Leanne Linton, Laureen Rautenbach, Kylie Marschner, Chris Howell, Jamie Bird, Cindy Smith.

Apologies

Sue Elliott, Juanita Rayner, Sharon Langton, Troy Whelan

Acceptance of Minutes from 7th August 2014

Minutes accepted as true and correct. Proposed: Cindy Smith. Seconded: Marian Lynch.



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Head/Deputy Head of Junior School Report

Marianne Connolly reported:

- During Term 4 Week 2 the Junior School will hold a **Morphing Festival**. Hopefully this event will continue in the future and grow into something fabulous. The festival has challenged staff to “Reuse, Recycle, Reimagine”. The festival has been partly inspired by the ACARA mandated increase in subjects for primary schools (primary schools must teach 16 subjects by 2016). Along with the Key Learning Areas, the latest ACARA documents include subjects like Japanese, Music, Design and Technology, Art, Drama, Dance, Media Technologies, ICT, Business, Economics and Citizenship as primary school subjects. The challenge for the Junior School is to avoid becoming a mini high school. In the past St Paul’s have been early adaptors of new ACARA requirements and the staff are already looking ahead to see how these new subjects will work. Staff are looking at what subjects have cross-over components and what can be done so students do not have 16 different pieces of assessment. Teachers are looking to combine assessment pieces so that elements of different subjects are included in the one assessment item. Trying to cover so many different subjects leads to concerns about a shallow curriculum. We want in depth understanding in IST, Arts and Technology. The Morphing Festival is one way of combining different subjects in a meaningful way. During the Morphing Festival each class will display school work from the past term. Each class will have different events organised from an Artist-in-Residence to a circus school. Each year the Morphing Festival – may have a different focus to reflect what the students are learning in class. The Morphing Festival is about teachers not wanting to limit their students. It will be run across all Junior School year levels. The idea is not about the product but the process. Part of the end product is the documentation of the journey. Failure is a part of learning and it allows students to redesign and rethink. The students will not be producing 30 products that are the same. The whole school will be involved in that week – and there will be drama, music and dance performances, fire-eating or fire-juggling – (Marianne is interested in finding someone – parents if you know of someone, please get in touch asap!). Parents will be invited and there will be a program of events for the week.
- Teachers have been undertaking a lot of Professional Development both within and outside of the school
- There has also been a lot of illness in the school. A number of teachers have been sick. 20 – 25 children in a single year level have been off sick with a variety of illnesses. Teachers have been trying to catch children up on any work they have missed.
- Year 5 students will be on camp and there are a number of excursions happening over the next two weeks.



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Treasurer's Report

Kylie Marschner reported:

- Current balance of JSSG Account is just under \$33,000 for the year to date
- Total commitments – JSSG have set aside just over \$25000
- Indicative end of year balance after forecast commitments and income is \$9000
- Income this month includes \$610 from Coffee Royal – we are deeply appreciative of the Chippendales' generosity. There is also an amount of \$133 from staff canteen lunches at the various carnivals.
- Expenditure for this month includes reimbursements to Gary for the movie night and Athletics Day BBQs and Becky purchased more credit for Mail Chimp
- \$400 of the \$2000 allocated for Junior School projects has gone into commitments for the Under 8s day.
- Thanks to Estelle for the Father's day stall – she did an amazing job

Kylie Marschner moved the report and Marian Lynch seconded.



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CPL Report

Marian Lynch presented the CPL report.

- **Emails-** Since the last JSSG meeting on August 7 a total of 28 email subjects have been distributed to a total audience of 9792. These emails have been sent from the following groups:
 - JSSG: 15 emails to an audience of 4992
 - School : 7 emails to an audience of 2809
 - Sports: 6 emails to an audience of 1991
- **Extracurricular Assembly** – Helen Sheppard has advised that she has 4 helpers and she thanked us for organising this.
- **Father's Day Update** – The first stall was run this morning with most of the stock sold but very few children went home empty handed. The volunteers were great and consequently everything ran smoothly – many thanks to those who volunteered for all the different roles. Estelle Wright has done a wonderful job and should be congratulated. The presentation of the gifts was outstanding and her organisational skills are fantastic. Thanks also to Marian for all her support of the Father's Day stall.

Correspondence

Cindy Smith reported the correspondence since the last JSSG meeting:

This included correspondence regarding:

- An email detailed Steve Wilkin's plan for the Under 8s day next year
- Email sent out by the Association about the training for Supporter Groups
- Email sent to Cricket Supporter's Group communicating the ability of the JSSG to send emails out to the Junior School if they required.
- Invitation for any supporter group to take up the opportunity to use the Bunnings BBQ as a fundraiser
- Information from the library on one of proposed authors for Writers-in-Residence
- Invoice from Class Covers



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Action Items arising from August meeting:

Item	Status
Leanne to send email to Alan Deacon from Cricket Supporter's Group and give him Marian's details	Completed
Marian to check whether the extra-curricular photo presentation is just for sports photos and email parent group if no response from CPLs for volunteers	Completed – 4 helpers found
Marian to discuss constraints about approaching local businesses with Estelle	Completed
Feedback to Mr Wilkins about U8s Day 2015 and Mr Mackenzie-Smith about Japanese garden project	Ongoing – emails sent – Discussion below
Sharon to liaise with Helen about organise Athletics coaches	Ongoing – see Discussion below
Becky to draft an email to parents interested in coming along to the workshop sessions	Completed – It was great to see so many Junior School parents attending
Becky to provide feedback to Association about Tuckshop bags	Completed - No opportunity to provide feedback as the new bags had already been bought.
Becky to send email to parents asking for a volunteer to coordinate CASP.	Completed - Jacqui Melck has offered to coordinate the Camping at St Paul's (CASP). It is going to be a good weekend. Is everyone happy with the movie "Monsters University"? Jacqui also wanted to tweak the Halloween theme to take away a little more of the ghoulish aspect and make it more "Monsters Inc". Discussion resulted in idea that children could still dress up in any Halloween costume – but the posters and movie will reflect "Monsters University". Gary and Becky will help with set up if anyone else wants to help let Becky or Jacqui know.



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Athletics Coaching

Report kindly provided by Sharon Langton:-

- The first Monday Donna Beikoff taught children the basics of highjump and the feedback I received from children and parents alike was that the session helped with confidence and technique. Mrs Schafferius observed some of the lesson as well.
- Unfortunately, the second lesson in discus/shotput was perhaps not as successful with too many children placed with the coach and no staff to assist her. This meant that children hoping to correct or establish some technique did not get the opportunity to do so. As the team had been picked on this day some may have perceived that they would get specialist one on one coaching. No staff were present to pick up tips from the coach.
- It is important to remember that these sessions were organised with little of the season remaining and were a taster to see if children received any benefit from them.
- Total cost for coaching not available yet as the invoice will be presented next Monday. However, the coaching cost is \$50/hr so anticipated total cost will be in the vicinity of \$300. That will leave approximately \$600 which would allow for about 6 sessions next year if we choose to go ahead with that.
- If we were to consider allocating the remainder of the funds to continued coaching next year two things would need to happen.
 1. Coaching would need to be given to those children who want to or who are likely to get into the team. For example, children are either interested or not interested in shot put and having the session open to all year 3-6 children is difficult to manage and prevents interested children from having the more one on one coaching that they would like.
 2. More structure would need to be given to organising the sessions and staff would need to indicate when and how they wanted the coaching to take place so that staff could be present and benefit from the sessions as well as was originally intended.

Sharon felt that the sessions are beneficial they just need some more organisation and co-operation to get the best out of them.

Discussion:

Was it beneficial for the children involved? Due to the number of children – many kids only had one throw. The Little Athletics coach demonstrated how to stand and showed the children how to throw. However the coach spent the majority of time managing students.

This was a one off opportunity to provide trainers because of the mix up with coaches on the Athletics Development Day. Should the JSSG spend the money on coaches next year? Is it within the JSSG philosophy to organise an event that only benefits a specific few children? If the idea was to train the trainers – how can we guarantee teachers access this service?

Do we need to look at other avenues for coaches? Perhaps Junior school students could train with older students. Or could middle and senior school teachers who are trained in Athletics offer coaching?

Marianne commented that in the Junior School sport was very much about participation and holistic education. In a crowded curriculum it was important that students participated in a range of activities to build core strength. Each year teachers volunteer to help out in different sports.



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Is there enough room in the School's budget to spend on sport in the Junior School? Is there the possibility of more parent volunteers? Does Athletics need a supporter group? Where there is a supporter group, parents tend to become more involved. Another issue raised was whether having a general "Sports" Supporter Group would help some of the less popular sports (a comment had been made about this at the Association training evening).

ACTION: Carry over the discussion about the role of the JSSG in supporting events like the Athletics Development Day and coaching such as this to the JSSG Review.

Other business

The Association Meeting

Becky reported on The Association meeting

- Supporter shirts – new supporter shirts, which will have school crest and 'St Paul's Supporters', will be available for any individual supporter group to purchase. They will be a green and white polo. The Association is planning on selling them at cost.
- Lauren wrote some great notes about the responsibilities of different roles in the Supporter Groups.

Family Fun Day

- Emails advertising the Family Fun Day have been sent out and posters are up around the school
- There are currently 39 registrations (10 days prior to the event) but hopefully registrations will build. We need 300 registrations to run the day. Character Builders will need to know by Tuesday if we have enough registrations to go ahead.
- Character Builders have looked over site and the FSUR has gone in
- More emails will be sent then a final email about details for the day will be sent.
- PrePrep children without an older sibling do not yet have their houses so an email went out letting those families know they could just pick a colour for the day. Marianne mentioned that Michelle Davies was going to try to send out details of the houses for the PrePreps over the next few days.
- Marianne would encourage students to attend the Family Fun Day at assembly. Could CPLs and teachers also try to encourage participation?
- 6 staff have sent registrations. Becky to let Marianne know where we stand with registrations.



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Second Hand Book/DVD Stall

- Juanita is proposing the stall will be held on Wednesday 22nd October (Week 3). The stall will run from 2:30-4pm at the Attunga Street bus shelter. Any leftover books will be donated to charities.
- If it is okay with the school the format will be the same as before. Could the teachers collect books and perhaps jigsaw puzzles and board games and the Year 6 students will move the goods down to the stall.
- Another suggestion was that costumes could also be included
- A suggestion from Marianne and Cheryl was that this event would tie in well with the Morphing Festival. Could it be run during Week 2 – Wednesday 15th October?
ACTION: Becky to liaise with Juanita about changing the date of the Stall.

TICK

- Kathy and Marian have started thinking about families re-subscribing to the communication list for next year and the JSSG have to decide if the TICK continues to be printed
- The proposed general process for re-subscription to the JSSG mailing list is to copy across the 2014 lists and send everyone an email asking if they would like to re-subscribe. Therefore, from the beginning of the year the JSSG will be in a position to get communication up and running from the get go. The CPLs that are appointed could find out if there are any families with changes in details or new families
- Under privacy laws organisations are not allowed to carry details over. If we don't ask parents this year we would have to start the whole process over again from the beginning. Last year every family filled out a form and this required a lot of processing of data (at the time Flexischools didn't have the capability to collect data but has now been upgraded). It would be easier if JSSG could undertake the process by exception. It would be easier if the onus is on a family to respond if they don't want to continue being part of the JSSG mailing list. Is it possible to send an email saying - *Unless you advise us to the contrary we will keep your details for next year?*
- ACTION: Kylie to investigate whether the privacy laws allow an email to be sent to parents communicating that their details will be used for the following year unless they advise they no longer wish to continue receiving JSSG emails.
- Another issue is the overlap between the Tick and the year list. Is it necessary to have the TICK when parents are able to access their child's year level list? This becomes a practical question as there is a huge amount of time involved in producing the TICK. Is it redundant given everything Kathy and Jason have put together with the JSSG database and emailing system?
- Parents commented that communication has changed since the inception of the TICK – now emails provide a much better communication tool. Perhaps the connection to the TICK can be continued in the name of the Year List contacts.
- The JSSG decided to formally bring the TICK era to an end but opted to keep the reference by renaming the year level lists the TICK Year Level Lists.



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Family Portrait Day

- Family Portrait Day is usually around this time of year. However we will not be having the day until early next year.

ACTION: Sue to send out email letting families know of the change in date for the Family Portrait Day in case there are families waiting to hear about it.

Celebration of Achievements Awards

- Each year the JSSG supports the Celebration of Achievements in the Junior School by sponsoring a number of awards. These awards go to Junior School students for academic and sports awards.
- Due to the creation of new supporter groups there has been a reallocation of the awards that have previously been sponsored by The Association.
- In the past the JSSG have contributed \$1000 and this contribution covers about a third to a half of the contributions for the awards.
- Becky moved that the JSSG support in principle an expenditure of \$1000 on the Celebration of Achievements Awards. Seconded by Kylie Marschner. Once we receive the spreadsheet with the list of individual awards from the Association / Development Office, we will circulate it to the committee for review and approval.

Writer in Residence

- Each year the JSSG support the Writer in Residence. This year the writer is organised to be at school during the biennial Book Fair which the Library is organising. The Library provided information on two authors. However due to issues with the cost of one of the authors, Mrs Bolton and Mrs Treherne have decided to just book Narelle Oliver. She is booked for four days and she will cover the whole JS cohort. Students will see her during their library time and some nominated children, whose strength is writing, will spend some additional time with the writer. The JSSG have already set aside \$1000 for this. Expenditure approved – proposed Becky Mammen, seconded Kylie Marschner.

Artist in Residence

- Marianne reported that Danielle Young is looking for an artist who uses recycled or reverse garbage to be an Artist in Residence during the Morphing Festival. If the School can't find a suitable artist, another idea is to have 'Reverse Garbage' come out and undertake some workshops with the students. The school is looking for programs which would match what classes are working on. Most classes would have the opportunity to take part depending on their projects.
- The likely budget for artist would be over \$1000 dollars thus any support the JSSG could contribute towards the cost of the artist would be appreciated. The art department would likely have to find some additional funds to add to any donation from the JSSG.



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- The JSSG end of year indicative balance allows some leeway to fund another project and our estimated future income does not include the Father's Day Stall which will be about \$300-\$400. The \$7000 for future commitments could also change during the review process, thus the JSSG are well positioned to offer support for the Artist in Residence.
- JSSG propose \$1000 for Writers in Residence and in principle support \$1000 towards the Artist in Residence (or other workshop if no artist found) because the Morphing Festival is a wonderful experience for the students and it is a privilege to have as part of their learning experience. Moved: Kylie Marschner. Seconded: Kathy Lollback.

Projects for the Junior School

- **Japanese Garden** - Year 5 are planning to grow Japanese soy beans (edamame). The School has done ground work and invoiced Charles Mackenzie-Smith \$400 for the garden bed. An additional \$200 is required for seeds, rakes and shovels. Charles has asked whether the JSSG will consider contributing towards the \$600 total. The site is beside the Specialist Centre. Irrigation is set up. The JSSG could look at supporting half the cost. The project is part of the 'realms of thinking' and links in with sustainability. The students will package, market and manage the garden - kids love the real authentic projects. Becky Mammen proposed that we contribute \$300 towards the project. Seconded: Richard Frenken.
- **Under 8s Day** – The JSSG originally decided to contribute \$400 towards arts and crafts activities for the Under 8s Day next year. Steve Wilkins has asked the JSSG to fund a once off sausage sizzle (cost: \$300). He was happy for us to just contribute \$600 in total. Discussion: the JSSG have healthy bank balance –we can afford to give full \$700 as the Under 8s Day this year was fantastic. Older students came down to interact and we should give our support to events that lead to a melding of older and younger students. This additional cost for the BBQ would cover Early Childhood students (PP-Yr2), old students who are helping, siblings, teachers and parents. If it is a success we can continue to support this event. Kylie Marschner proposed the JSSG contribute \$700 for the Under 8s Day next year. Seconded: Marian Lynch.

End of Year Dinner

- At the end of year dinner the JSSG would like to say goodbye and thank you to Gary Jackson for all his years of service.
- The dinner will be held on the 21st or 28th of November, (to avoid clashing with The Association / School hosted Extra Curricular drinks). Details about the night will be sent out via email.



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Thank you everyone for attending. There will be no meeting in October due to the school holidays. The last meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 6th November 2014 in the Tooth Staff Lounge. The Break Up party will be at 7pm and the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

ACTION TABLE

Carry over the discussion about the role of the JSSG in supporting events like the Athletics Development Day and extra coaching to the JSSG Review.

Becky to liaise with Juanita about changing the date of the Pre-loved book / DVD Stall.

Kylie to investigate whether the privacy laws allow an email to be sent to parents communicating that their details will be used for the following year unless they advise they no longer wish to continue receiving JSSG emails.

Sue to send out email letting families know of the change in date for the Family Portrait Day in case there are families waiting to hear about it.
