

**Holy Family School Merewether Beach
Minutes of Parents and Friends Meeting
June 8th, 2016**

Commenced: 7.00pm

Attendance

Sandra Mantach, Sue Thatcher, Liesel Allen; Mark Vella; Fran Stanbridge; Bridie Stanger; Sue Porteus; Sidonie Coffey; Carrie Baker; Kieran Hazell, Lisa Gill, Joe Hamilton, Ann Malloy, Anouk Coyte

Apologies –

Cath O’Sullivan, Kathryn Reilly, Kristy Noonan

Minutes from the previous meeting

Accepted by Liesel Allen

Seconded by Mark Vella

Business arising from previous meeting –

Fran shared positive feedback about the Online canteen app – Flexischools.

Continuing discussion of how funds of the Parish that are generated by Holy Family School (through giving, and the hire of Holy Family Centre) are being returned (or not) to the school.

Matt Lynch is in the process of finding out what was done in regards to electrical work in the Holy Family Centre.

Air conditioning: Mark Vella to discuss with Sidonie quotes and compare prices and systems. Aiming to book installation in during school holidays.

Continuing discussion about decluttering storage areas in the Holy Family Centre.

Correspondence –

Fundraising catalogues

Principals Report –

*What we anticipate seldom occurs....what we least expect generally happens’
(Benjamin Disraeli)*

Students:

Year 12 students from SFX complete the delivery of their Fundamental Movement Skills program with students K-2 this Friday. The program has been a great success. Their positive, affirming manner with our kids, clear instructions and courteous, respectful attitude has been appreciated by both students and staff.

Nominated students in Years 5 and 6 have attended Enrichment Days in Mathematics and Science with students at St. Columba’s, Adamstown.

Gabe Moylan has been selected to trial for a place in the Polding squad in rugby union.

Year 1 kids had an informative visit from big Dave Noonan....the dentist! All class members received a dental hygiene showbag.

Questacon Science Circus is rolling in for an exciting performance this Friday.

A large number of students ranging from Year 3-6 have completed their Parish Sacramental Program. They all attended a Retreat at St. Joseph’s, prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All students took part in the HF Reconciliation Week liturgy last week. Bridie Stanger put her 'special touch' on the organisational part of the liturgy.

Mini Vinnies leaders accompanied both Bridie Stanger and I to the Diocesan Reconciliation Week Liturgy.

All students, K-6 had a great time competing at the recent Athletics Carnival. Rebecca Searant did a cracker of a job organising the event.

All Kindergarten kids took part in a video conference with other schools recently.

Mini Vinnies kids held a successful Winter Clothing Appeal

Year 6 kids enjoying their Sing Out Loud experience, each week, at NovaCare

The school community has rallied behind Year 5 student, Lani Fear who is undergoing treatment for cancer. Seven boys in Year 5 had their hair shaved and the 'Fearless Sisters' have been selling wrist bands. Over \$1200 has been raised to buy Lani a laptop to use while undergoing long bouts of treatment at John Hunter Hospital. Journalist, Michael Parris wrote a very heart-warming article about Lani and her mates at Holy Family.

Staff:

Primary Coordinators position at Holy Family was advertised on **28th May**. Applications close on **Friday, 10th June**. This position was held for the last four years by Ben McCarthy, now Assistant Principal at St. Patrick's, Swansea.

School cleaners will be attending Chemical Safety training at St. Patrick's, Wallsend, this Wednesday.

R.E & Spirituality Consultant, Mrs Bernadette Gibson, will be working with REC, Bridie Stanger this Wednesday.

Several teachers will be attending an Art Education Workshop at the Newcastle Art Gallery this Tuesday evening.

All Staff took part in a PD Workshop with Professor Dave Lubans from Newcastle University. The workshop had a focus on the link between Mathematics and Physical Education.

Sidonie attended two days of meetings with Diocesan Principals working on the Diocesan Strategic Plan for 2017-2020

Second Year Newcastle University Undergraduate, Ms Emma Blackmore, has commenced a four week practicum. Emma will be mentored by Marg Rabbitt and Giulia

Drinkwater....and enjoying teaching Year 3/4

Year 1 Teacher, Carolyn Taylor has been featured in an article in the Australian Teacher Magazine. Check it out....<http://au.educationhq.com/news/34891/new-app-gets-students-out-into-the-wild/>

Parents/Facilities/Resources:

I have met with the electrician who looks after all our electrical maintenance in the school. My 'brief' from the P&F was to find out if our electrical grid could cater for the installation and operation of air conditioners for eight classrooms. 'Yes!!' was the response.

I have also secured a quote from Mark Michilis regarding repairs to the playground equipment. (submit quote)

Thank you to Louise Nguyen who, after a long session in the canteen last week, pumped up all our balls in the sports shed.

Ben Gill is doing a great job training our Junior Knights Knockout team

P&F Trivia Night was a hoot! Great night organised by a very efficient team of Mums....thanks Kristy, Liesel, Tracey and Cath. Never again will I even suggest that the

HF Staff would the 'silent assassins' and prove a formidable threat to the winners circle!

We have a stack of Year 1 parents who are assisting the class in oral reading every week....wonderful!

New lighting installed on the exterior walls of the OOSH (\$1300)

CCI Insurance (\$25000)

Carpets in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms have all been steam cleaned and shampooed.

Video Conferencing facilities have been installed in the school library....whacko!

Thank you for your support of this great school. Sidonie

Coming Events:

Year 6 religious Literacy Test: Tuesday 14th June

Enrichment Art Day @ St. Columba's, Adamstown: Tuesday 14th June

Year 6 Canberra Excursion : Wednesday 15th-Friday 17th June

Junior Knights Knockout : Thursday 16th June

Kindergarten/Year 1 attending Mass @ St. Joseph's: Friday 17th June

Kindergarten Farm Excursion: Tuesday, 21st June

Year 6 Science Lesson @ St. Pius X : Wednesday, 29th June (11.45-12.45)

Regional Athletics carnival @ Glendale : Thursday 30th June

Friday 1st July: last day of term.....phew!

Treasurer's Report –

Current position: \$24,566.55

Uniform Committee –

Sandy discussed the history of the Uniform Committee, and the detailed process involved in changing the uniform, for example, the style of hat.

2nd hand uniforms are accepted as donations – not hats, shoes, stockings, or backpacks. Money raised comes back to the school.

Canteen Report –

Nil

Fundraising Report –

Thanks to Kristy Noonan, Cath O'Sullivan, Tracey Wall, and Liesel Allen for organising the Trivia Night. Over \$3,000 raised.

Thanks to Kieran Hazell for involvement in the Mother's Day Stall.

Future events:

Ball: Fri 18th November. Theme: 'Summer Soiree' at the Beach Hotel

Possibility of BBQ at Voting Day on July 2nd. Volunteers needed for it to go ahead. Carrie to send note home requesting volunteers.

Discussion about School Fun Run fundraising company – to be looked at as an option close to the Olympics (August)

Next fundraising meeting – Wednesday 15th June

General Business –

Quote from Michilis Construction for refurbishment of the playground – discussion about the use of playground 'mulch'. Sidonie to further discuss with Mark Michilis.

Presenters from IT Company ScopeIT Education – discussion about including this in Term 3 as part of curriculum from Years 1-6. This led to discussion about the BYOD in current Year 6. Joe Hamilton has been requested to provide the P&F with a short term/long term strategic approach to IT.

After the last meeting's discussion about focus goals for spending fundraising money, to inspire volunteers and spending, staff were asked to make suggestions. Sue Porteus brought us the Staff wish list: Kindergarten Home readers \$300, Stage 3 reading material \$500, art supplies and drying racks (5 x \$150 = \$750); Storage tubs and hooks for Sports Room; 8 iPads or similar devices (Carrie suggested sourcing prices/advice for similar devices/androids). To be discussed at next meeting.

Next meeting Wed 20th July 2016.

Meeting Closed: 9.40pm