

P&C Meeting 4th Dec 2019

Attendees: James, Emma, Linda, Clinton, Heather, Elaine, Steph, Hattie, Mark, Yuka, Laura, Kat, Pris, Mel, Wendy, Kate, Steph, Rachel

Apologies: None

Meeting Start
7.30pm

President's Welcome

welcome to last P&C meeting of the year
familiar faces and new ones
grown so much over the year
so much going on over the year
quick welcome to who we are
group of parents and citizens come together to help make decisions for school,
canteen uniform shop, fun events
impact on school community
ways to get involved
4 sub committees
canteen, uniform shop, sustainability and events
welcome to come to meetings
volunteer here and there

Quick introductions going around:

Emma & James - passed info about Teracycle on to Heather, how to recycle products
and improve environmental impact
great we got on board with that
wonderful things happening at school
Clinton - electric engineer can do safety talks
At schools where SRC involved
Linda - vice president of P&C, loves painting murals and helps out, looking forward to disco
Pris - help where I can in the school
Wendy - help in canteen and around school
Melanie - run a toy shop, bookseller, I love the bees, native bee at home
Elaine - P&C Secretary, love creative projects and helping with sustainability
Hattie - sustainability sub committee co ordinator
Kate - assistant principal teaching year 4
Yuka - mum of child starting next year, live locally, husband is an architect, graphic designer, product designer
Stephanie - one of vice-presidents, over sees the canteen,
Rachel - swimming teacher
Heather - P&C president, working a lot around the school, being a big part of the school, amazing parent community, people really helpful and friendly
Kat - essentially could become treasurer, works with helping with mental health.

Laura - sustainability committee, love getting things done, here to help everyone

Minutes approved by Steph and 2nded by Laura

Principal Update and School News

Report for Dec

Honour assembly

Great time and focus for the term

Story factory

Local Sydney Uni visit

Thanks to teachers for helping out

Good experience

Getting ready for school

4 sessions, 4 playgroups

very well attended, more than any other year

expect that with growing school

103 packages went out to new students, expect around 100 new students next year

lots of new faces

lovely Meron did a great job and within a very limited space

thanks to Kathie in the canteen

big thank-you to parents, tireless work with events

come and join us for parent volunteer morning tea

lots of events to go

disco on Friday

presentation day next Tuesday

many seats booked at PCYC

invites now out

award winners, acknowledging great work with kids

reports going home on Monday

Games day for Year 6

Carols in afternoon on 16th Dec

Zone bowling

Last day of term

Thank you very much for a great year, fantastic 2019

Presidents Report

Heather - we hear how much everyone love the staff, changes, how much we've grown

Amazing Journey

Started out without knowing what a P&C was

So much work, starting off building foundation

Stepped it up, everyone has had a hand in accomplishing things

Boosting profile

Out on the playground

Approachable and friendly

Speaking at Monday morning assemblies, Linda and myself, sometimes Wendy

Dressing up in costumes, making children laugh, good for kids to know who we are

Newsletter started this year, more expanded, more content from each sub committee, turned into a real source of news, so others can keep up with info

Generate excitement

Unique challenge at this school

So many diff sources of info, everyone gets info differently, some only chk social media, or letters at home, read newsletter, really hard to find one central source that's been challenging, newsletter has helped in that sense

Good conversation started

Communication starter

People can come and ask questions

Mel - can you see how many people actually open it?

Mark - yes I can check up on that, interesting to see

Elaine - I go through it for dates, calendar etc

Interacting more with people, improving communication btwn school, parent volunteers, tackle issue of central source of info

Added class parents this year, with help of Kim, who has been trying to get of ground for a while

A lot of improvements and getting to know people

Events, particular favourite of mine

Boosted events on larger scale

Cross country and athletics festival, providing morning tea

Election bbq, raised a lot of money

Teachers appreciation lunch this year on 11th Dec, last year we did sushi, sweets, wraps

Left them alone to enjoy

1st welcome picnic, partnered up with woollies, passed around overflowing platters, at no cost to families, dancing with the kids, music

going to do that again, put events on calendar every year

mothers day and fathers day events kept them free, no charge, for families, don't want anyone to feel like they have to pay for that, proud that we have been able to keep that approachable and free

pick gifts for mothers day and fathers day, no getting cheap packaging items, using more natural products with glass, wood

we have made a lot of positive changes

formed relationships with local businesses and sponsors, approaching them,

presented at office last week to Drs to ask for help to pay for our 'special guest' covering the costs of sausages and providing elves

providing special transport, in the form of a fire truck

really exciting, Complete Chiropractic, on Fisher Road

Really amazing

Great organisation to be paired with

Exciting seeing where we have come from to where we are now

Kid helpers been great, they are learning, handling money, give them that responsibility

A lot of excitement to come next year

Treasurers Report – getting there, next year

Canteen Report – read by Steph

Good evening to all,

In wrapping up another year, I'm pleased to say we are moving closer to becoming a more sustainable canteen. New supplies introduced by the sustainability committee are working brilliantly. Continuing to work together will help us reach our goal quicker.

Our current waste procedure is continuing to succeed, our beautiful students are forever asking to help with a job... examples are soft plastics being taken to the purple lidded bin, vegetation to the green bin.

Our current menu is working well for our students and meeting the criteria & guidelines set by the Healthy School Canteen Australia.

While there are many ideas for change and growth, the canteen's structure and space have been and will continue being considered in the future.

7 very dedicated parents have included their canteen shift in their calendar each week of 2019. A massive thank you to them and so many others who have joined me during a prep, recess or lunch time. Effort, time and warmth has been so greatly appreciated.

While I'm sad Year 6 will be leaving us, I'm extremely thrilled to welcome our 2020 kindergarten and new students.

For our new and existing families, a reminder that lunch orders are accepted online via Flexischools and over the counter until 9am, the day of the order. An emergency, limited menu is available online only until 10:30am.

New parents concerned about money and their child... coins in a pocket or purse/wallet is preferred. An excited child often has a smile from ear to ear when simply purchasing a frozen orange piece for 10 cents. You'll be pleasantly suprised at what a 50 cent piece can buy your child at our Dee Why Delights canteen.

Please see our menu for finer details or pop down for a visit.

I would like to thank each school staff member for their continued support and respect. I feel blessed to be a part of such a spectacular school.

Mrs. Stephanie Hicks, one of our P&C Vice President's, who's support has been tremendous and overwhelmingly appreciated. It's been wonderful having Stephanie pop in at different times of the day to learn and experience what a day in the canteen can consist of.

With the addition of Lisa Atkinson, I'm proud to say we've worked and will continue working brilliantly & successfully as a team for the children of Dee Why Public School.

Thank you all for listening.

Wishing all families a Merry Christmas, a safe new year and plenty of exciting times in 2020.

Kathie

Thanks to Steph for supporting Kathie

Safety Update

Road crossing, think they are going to do the lights

New building, depending on how the new design of school building will be

Hattie: For next year how many new classrooms will there be?

Mark: 2 new de-mountables down in the corner where veggie patch used to be

Air con and accessibility

Uniform Shop

Doing amazing

Olga is wonderful

Extremely reliable

On her own looking for ways to improve things

Made a changing room area

Found us another size hat

New hats holding up really really well

Only complaint was how deep they were

Not as heavy or sweaty as previous hat, tried on many head sizes, and shapes

Mel - Uniform is great quality, wash many times, still going strong

Events

Last event thing, with carols, didn't get to touch on giving tree, collecting donations for tree. We will have a giving tree, collecting gifts anytime between now and then.

Idea behind it is giving the gift to someone who needs it, big lesson to teach your kids, see that these are for kids your age, but they are in a situation where they might not be as fortunate as you

Providing accommodation, lodging, clothes, life skills excursion, straight to those kids, 170 kids staying with them during holidays

Laura - can this be something teachers can tell kids in the classroom

Explain what it is for

Heather - esp see that its relatable, the kind of toys they play with as kids of similar ages

Laura - everyone would like to participate

Heather - Send home letter soon and facebook, poster

Can put in classrooms, teachers to explain

Don't have to be expensive

Choose item of list, place in gift bag, age appropriate, cannot be wrapped, with tags on it, in office

James - suggestion hang picture of gift on tree

Gifts under the tree

Emma - Parent take a photo of the child holding gift so child can feel proud

Heather - Having all gifts together and children holding gifts, easy to maintain

Rachel - parent can send in photo of child holding gift and submit if they want

Leave up to children to make decision

Sustainability Report - Read by Hattie

Sustainability sub-committee was formed by Elaine last year and includes parents and 3 very active teachers. The foundations for change were laid last year and this year we have started building on it.

Environmental sustainability for our school means to embody eco-friendly initiatives that reduce our negative impact on the environment. In its simplest form, what we are trying to do here is to reduce our waste, especially single use plastic.

But, for those who might not know, sustainability is a part of the Australian Curriculum. I quote from The Australian Curriculum

Sustainability addresses the ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain all life. Sustainable patterns of living meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Actions to improve sustainability are individual and collective endeavours shared across local and global communities. They necessitate a renewed and balanced approach to the way humans interact with each other and the environment. The Australian Curriculum places emphasis on Sustainability as a priority for study that connects and relates relevant aspects of content across learning areas and subjects.

Cross-curriculum learning is fundamental to:

- participating critically and acting creatively in determining more sustainable ways of living.

Through the priority of Sustainability, students develop the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary to contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

So in our efforts, teachers are trying to teach our children a more balanced way of living, one without harming the environment as much as we do. And as sustainability sub committee members, we are trying to raise awareness amongst parents and carers, in line with the teacher's efforts.

We meet once a term on a school day morning and go through our achievements and new plans. We talk problems, come up with solutions and go and implement them and come back the following term to discuss more. We advertise our meetings on facebook pages and newsletters and everyone is welcome to attend. Our parent member numbers have grown since last year, so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the kindy mums that have joined us this year. We are of course hoping for more members next year and will be actively recruiting on the playground, as Elaine and I did this year.

So, we ticked off a few things from our list this year, left many unticked with many more plans to add to next year. Although there is a global urgency for change, I don't see our school in a major rush to bring change. We don't want to unsettle other sub-committees such as the canteen with drastic changes and rather take baby steps and make sure everyone is happy and prepared in the meantime.

Since the beginning of this year we have..

- * Formed the Green Team who looks after our fully functioning compost
They also look after the veggie patch with Mrs Higgins
They held Waste Audits in Term 1 and Term 4, which gave us clear insight, into what and how much waste we were producing
- * With this information, and with the money donation from the Davidson-Hayes family, Mr O'Brien ordered our new bins. We now have compost bins, landfill bin for general waste and a return and earn bin and a soft plastic bin.
Sub-committee members have been sorting the soft plastic with mr O'Brien every Thursday and taking it to Redcycle drop off points. The amount of soft plastic packaging we have saved from going to landfill is shocking.
- * We have removed the sale of glow sticks from our discos and fish soy sauce and single use tomato sauce sachets from the canteen with no interruption to sale numbers or customer dissatisfaction
- * We have replaced some serveware at the canteen to eco friendly alternatives, namely cups, lids, forks and spoons made out of corn starch, which is very well received by the community. The P&C has funded the first order from the donations for the easter raffle but going forward the canteen can pay with the promising profits they have been making but the subcommittee will be happy to step in when needed as we'd like to work closely with all sub committees
- * Bread Tags
- * We also collect oral health care products for Terra Cycle
- * Native Bees
- * We now have green messages on all our event advertisements

For the future, without going into too much detail as its work in progress we would like to

- Buy a dishwasher for the canteen so we can use reusable serveware and save on water wastage by handwashing
- Make our events more sustainable, again we need a dishwasher
- Shift our focus from recycling to reducing our plastic waste
- Send our information leaflet to parents on what they can do to reduce lunchbox waste
- Get more native bees
- We'd also like to collect plastic bottle caps for a charity called Envision which makes prosthetic hands for children
- We'd like to hold a couple of fundraising events around sustainability next year

Collecting bread tags, fill one jar a term
Made of really good quality plastic, sent to south Africa, recycle turn into pots and pans, door knobs, money goes to south Africa and goes to wheelchairs for children in need
Collect oral health care products for terra cycle
Can't recycle any oral health care products, until now
Dentist at Pittwater road, they can earn points for their charities
Mel - are a lot of kids bringing in oral care products?
Mr O'Briens box is full
Finally tracked down Dan the Bee man and have native bees
Bee murals
Native not stinging bees
Now have green messages on event advertisements
In future not burn out people, everyone volunteer your time, do what you can
Biggest success
For next year, dishwasher extremely crucial to move forward, it's difficult with the space, but Kathie is prepared to move a couple of cupboards
Can pull out and can put it in
Laura - at preschool can put containers in bin and collect (not all the way over by canteen), cornstarch is great, but still not best solution
Emma - Is there a water port in mans shed or nearby, simply to buy a dishwasher and put it on
Hattie needs to be industrial
Mark - if we pay for all the work we could have a deal, and P&C can pay for dishwasher
A lot of time spent cleaning dishes, and need to be sanitised
Move towards more sustainable, baby steps, eventually save water, save plastic, more time to make and prep healthy food
Trying to bring a bigger generation up, amend our mistakes and do the right thing, quicker to teach the kids how to live sustainable
Reduce amount of paper and waste, and ink
Possible excursion, agreed money from P&C to fund pollution solution
Bake sale from carols to fund this incursion
Mark, that would be great
Collect plastic bottle caps, milk, soft drinks, envision they make prosthetic arms from caps
Kat we collect them at work, amazing organisation, 100% behind that
Hattie - start that next year, message out to sustainability group
Mel - Mr Wylie applied for Sustainability grant
Hattie - think John applied for sus grant, results will come out in Feb could be money we put twds dishwasher
we would like to hold a couple of sus events next year, we had a great year, a very positive group
dee why beach clean up - had M and Mrs Higgins, and kids from DY school, and they wore their hats, and more will join next time
Laura - know that you have dealt with a lot last year, for us, for new Kindy mums, been the most wonderful experience, very well oiled organisation, so proud to be part of sus committee, joined that group first then came to the P&C, regardless of what you had to go through to get to this point, I was happy to jump in

Heather, amazing to hear
Thank-you for that

Heather - what a wonderful year it has been, looking fwd to next year, special thank-you to staff, teachers, members, exec committee, been great to have more of a team, making progress, and inviting new people in and making it wonderful

8:55pm meeting closed