



Minutes of Meeting

Diocesan Parent Council – North Shore Cluster Meeting
Wednesday 5th August, 2015
7.30 pm at OLOR, Waitara

1. Attendees:

Louise Johnston (North Shore Cluster Co-ordinator), Katherine Goh (OLOR, Waitara), Nicola Chisholm (OLPS, West Pymble), Justine Whiting (Sacred Heart, Pymble) Susanne Palmer (St Patrick's, Asquith), Maria Smith (St Leo's, Waitara). Sue Giacomelli (St Gerard's, Carlingford), Melissa Jose (St Bernard's, Berowra) James Digges (Prouille)

Apologies: Kirrily Rooney (St Agatha's Pennant Hills), Robbie McKegg (St Thomas', Willoughby) Steve Varnum (Sacred Heart, Pymble) Anna Betke & Angela Rossello (St Philip Neri, Northbridge).

2. Welcome and introductions lead by Louise Johnston.

3. Sharing around the schools on parent engagement (PE) and community building (CB)

OLOR. (P.E). Updating P&F website to include PE information, such as school information, DPC seminars, Catholic Care link as well. Looking at a weebly page but need to ascertain costs associated with it. Will Lumley has put out an App (former St Leo's teacher). P&F putting on cyber safety' talk from the Youth Liaison Officer from NSW Police. Also Driver safety information for parents from Transfield Services. They are suggesting reflective strips for children's bags to keep them safe. **C.B.** The community fair is a big event in term 4.

OLPS. (P.E). EMU session for parents held during the day and evening on Monday 27 July. Parents went into the classroom to see the learning in action. Kits will be available for purchase to use at home. Website updated with good parent information. **(C.B)** The P&F working with the Parish and Sacred Heart, Pymble to celebrate a 'Week of Joy' on 29 August - 5 September at Pymble Parish. School disco end of term 3.

ST. LEO'S (P.E). Parent Information evening. 7pm beginning with wine and cheese. Principal's update followed by video assessment tasks shown to parents on what students were told in the classroom. A 'Study Skills' seminar organised for students and parents by Prue Salter. (CB). 11 students sent to Kirabus under the social justice initiative.



ST BERNARD'S (P.E.) Social and emotional development seminar with 25-30 parents attending. It was presented in two parts by the CSO education officers. An App was given for each child. **(C.B.)** Robyn Gallagher presented her "Ripples" program which combines exercise with mediation.

St Gerard's (P.E) Yr 3-6 numeracy workshop where 20-30 parents attended. Class mass held in the classroom. Good for non catholic parents to feel more comfortable and involved. A roster for Dads on sport, Friday at 9:30 am particularly by stage 3 where boys want more basketball, soccer, handball. Great connection for dads and boys. Reports for P&F meetings emailed to parents before the meeting, using this time instead for PE. **(C.B.)** 1st Friday night of the month gathering at the Parish for all Dads of the school. It has now become a school / parish function as parents leave the primary school but stay connected. The P&F have Parish Liaison Officers who organise sessions for parents. Recently there was "a morning with Pope Francis". They also organised "Heartbeat" during Lent over 6 weeks. The group would be given a reading to discuss and then a cup of tea to follow. There is a hospitality group who co-ordinate the morning teas after mass.

Sacred Heart. (P.E.) Encouraging all parents to participate in Pymble Parish Week of Joy. Parents will help cater over the week and there are events for young and old over 8 days to attend, both mornings and evenings. **(C.B.)** The P&F are doing Something enegetic-athon" Different athletic activities followed by a sausage sizzle. "Oval camp out" very successful, with scavenger hunt, fire and marshmallows raising money for Caratis. Also a family barefoot bowls day. Class lists were an issue this year, but now an 'opt in' system has enabled lists to be created.

Prouille (P.E.). Instigated a Parent Engagement officer on the P&F. They are promoting DPC education, and sending out "bite size" information rather than long newsletters. Subjects like "how to read to your child effectively" and "how to create an environment to isolate time with your child".

James requested the DPC lead the schools more effectively in information sharing. Can there be a priority guide list for parents, 10 things you need to know. How can we be more strategic and improve sharing of information. "What do you have trouble with ?" Give guidance to parents on how to participate without doing their child's work for them. Using IT more effectively, show videos of 15 and 30 seconds on a learning outcome and all schools access the information. Help the schools work more collaboratively. **(C.B.)** A multi cultural food day after mass at Holy Name. A great celebration of school and parish.

St Pat's (P.E) Rock and water program for the children. Maths information night on EMU. Grandparents day and open classrooms was successful. Men in the morning enabling dads in the classroom more frequently. Mobile version of the website. **(C.B.)** Yr 6 'star struck' talent show. Pretty in Pink dance for fathers and daughters for year 3-6. A movie night "Paddington".



4. DPC Parent Workshop Term 3

What your kids need from you with Dr Justin Coulson

Monday 17 August 7.00 pm

Sacred Heart Pymble

Target market: All year

5. Matters / issues for future consideration.

- AGM proposed date Monday 19 October 2015.
- CSO feedback.
- Technology. Where are we headed in terms of technology in the future?
- Catholic secondary schools for boys in Broken Bay.

There is no boys secondary school in our diocese. What support can CSO give to parents who can't get into catholic independent boys schools like St Pius in Chatswood, or Marist College in North Sydney (which is not in our diocese). Very stressful for parents in the local catholic schools.

