

BSB Parents Association Meeting
August 26th, 2014
Meeting Minutes

BSB Ball 2015

Kick-off meeting will happen September 2nd at 2pm in the board room.

The meeting will establish a small committee that should organize group of volunteers. Simon will head the committee, Livia will act as secretary, and Pearly as treasurer. Other members will be defined during the meeting.

Mail Chimp account

Simon briefly explained how Mail Chimp mailing tool works. The PA will now be able to have access to all parent's e-mails with added bonuses of being able to sort out e-mails of parents from Primary and Secondary.

Mr. Puttock explains that parents' handbook already says that parents give the school permission to receive e-mails from the PA. However, we should have an opt-out box in case they would like to unsubscribe.

Nicole Washko will help us with handling the account.

Back to School Picnic

Picnic will be held Sunday August 31st, at school, from 12pm to 3pm.

Chatterbox will lend icebox, which will need to be taken outside. Also, we will need electrical plug.

Simon has volunteered to buy Pimms and we will also use leftover Pimms from last years. Also, he will be responsible for guaranteeing electricity and table ready for usage.

Volunteers will help as follows:

Setup and 1st session: Caitlin / Sarah / Jenny & Fi

2nd Session: Linda Li / Lisa / Maggie / Joyce

3rd Session and Tidy Up: Simon / Edel / Livia / Maxine

Roundabout Book Fair

Book fair will be held on Saturday, August 30th at 10am, at BSB foyer, and it'll be open to general public. They have asked for volunteers to set up the books on Friday and also for Sunday. It was suggested that year 12 tutor ask for volunteers among students. Simon will check with Ellie Puttock and Roundabout what are specific needs.

Volunteers are also needed for Chatterbox on Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

New Families Team

The New Families Team (Caitlin, Sarah and Fi) suggested an informal coffee morning or afternoon probably on Thursdays or Fridays at Chatterbox with parents.

The team will meet with Nicole to align their activities with school calendar.

Jenny suggested we have people from Oasis to come speak to parents regarding procedures during an emergency, contact information etc. Nicole explained that in the following weeks we will have another bus to the INN meeting which will cover health issues.

Another initiative for new parents is a bulletin board at the uniform shop with cards with parent's suggestions for cab drivers, pediatricians. Nicole asked us to put some cards up with recommendations.

International Day

Charlotte explained the event for the new parents and suggested we need at least three members for the committee that runs it, but there are small tasks that we can already determine. She suggested we do a different meeting focusing on International Day in order to split the tasks.

Last year there was a student parade, around 25 tables for the different countries, shows and demonstrations.

Andy Puttock explains the first idea was to have the event happen on a Saturday to get secondary students to participate. However, this will be a loss for primary students in terms of interest and learning experience. The solution could be having the Summer Fair be more international.

Charities

Simon made an open invitation for charities that we could support this year with PA ball and other activities. Charlotte explained that last year the PA's money was put forward to school and that different charities received money from Chatterbox.

Community issues

1. Local shops selling alcohol to kids. How should we address the issue?

The issue was brought to the PA's attention by Jenny, who saw a minor from school buying vodka at Jenny Wang. Other parents have seen a 9 year-old buying beer at River Garden's Jenny.

Andy Puttock suggests that a group of representatives from the schools' PA's and principals should talk to Jenny Wang and see what she can do to help us. However, there are some limitations on what we can do for there is no law in China regarding age limit to buy alcohol.

Weiwei suggests an awareness campaign to parents. Another suggestion is to bring subject at assembly, talk about dangers of alcohol. The concern should not be only regarding age restriction, but liquor forgery as well.

A student id is under discussion. Would it help to restrict alcohol consumption?

Another suggestion is that parents should act as watchdogs, even snapping pictures of the kids when they are buying alcohol.

2. Helmet usage. How can we enforce it?

Some suggestions are to bring up bike safety education theme in assemblies; have teachers monitor when kids arrive at school (in a similar way as it's done with

uniforms); ask teachers to use helmets; create a bike safety campaign (but be careful with videos shown at school).

Again there is a limitation for there are laws enforcing helmet usage for motorbikes, but not for scooters, electric bikes and regular bikes.

PA Cricket day

A family gathering to play cricket was suggested. However, being sports a cultural matter, a more ample sports day was suggested and we could have football, table tennis, badminton, t-ball... The Sports day should happen on a weekend in order to have more fathers involved.

WeChat

Simon suggested we create a PA group on WeChat, but we should not use it exclusively because, although very popular among Chinese, still not very used among Western parents.

Other issues

- Charlotte offered half of a Chatterbox bulleting board for the PA. Andy Puttock asked that information be put up in Chinese and Korean as well. Also, he suggested we have another board at the Primary entrance.
- Charlotte suggested we contact Isabel, a Korean lady, who might be able to help with translations and outreach to Korean community.
- It was suggested that we have a Chinese translator for next meeting. Simon will work with Chinese parents to see how that will work because if everything is translated, meeting will take double the time. And if partially translated, some information might get lost.
- Another suggestion was to have a sign up sheet in Chinese and Korean at Parents' assembly.
- Andy Puttock suggests we send volunteer opportunities for parents by PA email account.
- Charlotte asks for volunteers to cover some time slots at Chatterbox on Thursday afternoons (2pm-5pm) and Friday mornings (8h30am-11h30am).

Next meetings

- September 2nd, 2pm. Most important topic will be the PA ball, but other issues will be brought up.
- October 9th, Thursday, 9am: general meeting
- November 4th, Tuesday, 9am: general meeting