

PA Meeting – September 14th 2015

With almost 50 parents from 15 countries participating, this year's first PA meeting was very engaging and allowed first comers to get involved with several issues.

Next International day meeting will be September 23rd, 10am.

Next PA general Meeting will be held November 2nd, 9am.

Group Updates

Outing: The PA will take a group for a trip around Shunyi visiting markets, tailors, restaurants etc. on Monday 21st.

Interest Group: Talks on Asia are scheduled. Mr. Puttock signals that we can suggest items that should be bought for secondary kitchen.

Updates from school

E-mail has been sent out to parents requesting they step up to become class representatives.

The food committee will meet on September 25th. The group needs to have at most five parents. Interested in participating should contact Nicole Washko.

Income in Chatterbox Café has come down and there is a concern that it might be due to the secondary cafeteria that now sells soft drinks and snacks. However, Mr. Puttock informs us that the cafeteria has been used very little. That's because, usually Years 12 and 13 don't have time to go to the cafeteria. As for prices, it is agreed that the cafeteria and Chatterbox shouldn't compete. The cafeteria now will also serve healthy snacks rather than the ones offered currently. The school will continue to monitor the cafeteria and its use.

Uniforms will stay the same this year.

New cycling lane has been installed to aid in the children's safety. It leads to the back entrance straight into the bicycle and tuktuk parking.

This year, the school has put great emphasis on teaching leadership skills to our secondary students. This year, there won't be head boy and head girl. Rather, the new approach is to create three committees (Academic, Social, and Charity) each with three students. Elections for these committees will happen in two weeks. This measure, which came from suggestions by the students, broadens the opportunity to take on leadership roles.

School will think about engraving students names on end of the year awards.

The school will check the problems with the year 8 lockers.

Swimming pool hygiene is a concern brought up by parents. Many children have reported to having verrucas (foot warts). Children will be advised to wear flip flops while showering or walking around the pool. Mr. Allman will continue to supervise year 2 lunch time so they can have at least 30 minutes of rest between lunch and swimming lessons. He will also check with Mr. Armstrong if there are restrictions to showering after using the pool.

Chinese: Six Chinese parents have volunteered to help sort out the library books according to levels. Other 20 parents will act as reading parents.

A critical issue raised by parents was regarding financial support to students representing BSB in events with other schools (sports, music, academic, FOBISIA, ACAMIS etc). According with Mr. Puttock, the school's policy is "anything that is open to all students is free of charge". That is the case of field trips, residentials, and ASAs, for instance. However, the policy also states that where there is something "for a limited number of students, their parents pay". That is the case, for instance, for sport competitions as Fobisia, and academic meetings as World Scholar's Cup. This topic will be discussed further more in another meeting that will also include the head of Sport, Mr Washko. One point was agreed, though, there should be no pressure from the teacher on the child to participate in any event.

Korean parents are asking more support by having Korean speaking TA's, receptionists. This topic will be discussed in more depth during Korean coffee mornings. However, having a Korean TA might implicate in children not wanting to speak English and becoming more dependent on the TA.

Mr. Allman will follow up on Year 3 class readings. He explained time tables were a bit delayed due to technical problems.

School Bus Office will follow up on use of seat belts on school buses and checking they are in working order..

The use of games in the bus is permitted. Use of phones are not allowed in school, unless they have a project that requires its use. Secondary students are allowed to bring phones to school but use in lessons is not allowed unless monitored in class for academic work. The school believes that students having a phone could be very useful to help their safety, given the long bus journeys some have.

The school will hold a workshop on November 4 at 8.45am and 6pm regarding internet safety that will deal with issues such as the social media.

If any parent is not receiving mails from the school, please inform Nicole Washko. There is a glitch in the e-mail system and the school's IT is trying to solve it. Also, there is an issue regarding attachments and there is a suggestion that the school should always send out documents in PDF format.

It was brought up that BSB does not have National holiday in line with other International School. Mr Puttock mentioned that he did sent out a consultation document regarding 2015-16 holidays to all parents on January 2015 and received no responses. The school aims to have around 180 days of school during a school year. However, this year, the school was informed about the recent two-day holiday

for the celebration parade when the school calendar was already sorted out. This way, BSB has only 179 school days this year. For the next holiday, the school decided to stop on the 28 and return only on October 7th in order to avoid having to break for another holiday on the following week.

In order to end with mosquito problem in nursery area, school will use insecticide at weekends and organic dispensers and also track where mosquitos might be proliferating.

International Day will be held October 26, with set up Sunday October 25th afternoon. Ideally, we should have two or three leaders from each country. School will study possibility of having performances held in the theater. Simon Warwick will take over the primary quiz preparation. Primary classes need more time to visit the stalls and suggestions were made as to how to improve this this year. Eli Puttock will send out e-mails to parents from each nationality. Next International Day Meeting will be held September 23rd at 10am, theatre.

Three points on the agenda were postponed to the next meeting due to lack of time:

- 6 former chill out room,
- Lockers in general
- Shoes in school and classrooms