

Parent Committee Meeting Agenda and Response by Management Term 3, 31 May, 2018

Agenda point Presented by Parent Committee	Response and action taken by Management
Child Car Safety Campaign in Foundation	Fiona Scott, Deputy Head of Foundation: Foundation Homeroom teachers will include this into their 'Transport' topic. The topic which is usually taught in term 3 will be taught in term 1. Child road safety will be included in the planning and teaching for all children in Foundation.
Safe Body - Foundation and Year 1	Fiona Scott, Deputy Head of Foundation: As above, the 'being safe' suggestion will be included within the planning and teaching on the topic of 'Ourselves' which is taught at the beginning of term 1.
Secondary End of Year Prom: Could the theme be announced earlier on in the year giving families plenty of time to source appropriate outfits. Or better yet, just announce an ongoing annual no theme only formal attire thus allowing the kids to freely express themselves, shop online, buy when they are visiting their home countries, are visiting Bangkok or even design themselves.	Elizabeth Mason, Head of Secondary: As a school we would like the students to have a say regarding the theme for the end of year Secondary Prom. This helps them feel ownership and teaches them leadership skills. The Head of Secondary has contacted the homeroom teachers to round up votes and the decision has been made by the students: Hollywood theme won the vote.
Mosquito Concern: Parents are worried as there seem to be a lot of mosquitos this year. Especially on the ground floor near Music and Art classrooms). How often does it happen and how can we enforce it?	Management: The housekeeping team will ensure that regular fumigation takes place on weekends when the children are not in school. The art department will work on better storage for damp art work as this will help to prevent a lot of mosquitos hiding in storage spaces.
HeadStart's Got Talent: Organise the first audition with audience and jury composed of teachers and kids to give each child a fair chance. Another option would be to add an 'audience choice award'. We suggest splitting participants into 2 categories 'amateurs' and 'pro'. Final competition show should include the jury	Erika Cramp, Head of Creative Arts Faculty: HeadStart's Got Talent is a show where we showcase the best of the best in our school. Unfortunately there is no time in the calendar to have an amateur competition as well a pro competition. I don't believe putting amateurs in a competition situation is an ideal way of building confidence and developing skills. However, students are frequently encouraged to take part during music lessons so that they can show off their talents. This way their confidence can be nurtured in a friendly environment. Students can also join various ASPs which have a performance element to it, for example the Sing Along Club. There are ample opportunities during the year to perform such as CAPA week, assemblies, etc.
Boosters questions #1: What would you recommend to students that haven't understood certain info from the lesson and that they still don't understand after a Booster? Can Boosters be organized in a way that would help them to answer to their actual questions?	Management: Parents should encourage their child to speak up and ask their subject teachers questions so that they understand the concept. Between the subject class and Booster the student should be able to obtain the information they need.
Boosters question #2: Can students be told end of year if they will need a Booster the following academic year so that they know which ASP's they can choose.	Anisa Van Der Laan, ASP Manager: Unfortunately this request is not feasible as Boosters are designed for students performing below age related expectations. Teachers and management can only assess which students fall into this category by using the end of year exam results.
Year 10 Boosters: The most popular Boosters take place on the same day. Do you have any system that allows you to track the number of requests for Boosters and ASPs so that you can balance them in the schedule?	Anisa Van Der Laan, ASP Manager: Next academic year no core subject Boosters in Key Stage 3 will be on the same day. In Key Stage 4, all subjects are considered core subjects depending on the student's choices and therefore some subjects may overlap. Keeping this in mind, students will need to select Boosters based on which subject they need the most help with.

<p>Gym Cleanliness: Can the school please improve the cleanliness of the fitness gym as there seems to be a lot of dust and insects. Two air-cons remain in non-working condition for two months now.</p>	<p>Nick Carter, Athletics Director: Housekeeping does 2 rounds of cleaning: one at 9:30am and another in the late afternoon. I welcome parents to take pictures of any area of the gym they feel is unkempt or dirty and email them to me at ncarter@headstartphuket.com. Alternatively you can come and speak with me personally and I will investigate further.</p> <p>Regarding the air conditioning in the gym, it is in fact only one of the eight air conditioning units that are not working and after calculating the BTUs needed for the amount of gym space, the remaining 7 are sufficient for the space available.</p>
<p>Competitions in Phuket: Parents want to be aware of Olympiads and other competitions that take place in Phuket.</p>	<p>Nick Carter, Athletics Director: If I ever receive information regarding Olympiads and other such competitions I will forward to be posted on the Facebook page and weekly update.</p>
<p>English Speaking Basketball Coach: Parents have mentioned that 3 years ago HeadStart had a really good coach and the boys' basketball team was really strong.</p>	<p>Nick Carter, Athletics Director: We have hired Coach Ball because he is competent and well able to do the job. While it is true that his level of English is not very high, it does not negate the fact that he has a good rapport with the players and he has taken the girls Basketball from strength-to-strength over the last two years. Further to this, his assistant, Coach Naomi, is a native English speaker, who also speaks proficient Thai therefore bridging the gap between languages.</p> <p>This year there are 4 after school Basketball sessions that are open for boys as well as girls: 2 primary and 2 secondary. If there is enough interest and enough players then Coach Ball will arrange fixtures for the boys.</p>
<p>Secondary Bullying Primary: There seems to be a problem with Secondary students bullying Primary students. Secondary Students don't respect Primary kids. They don't respect adults either. We would like to suggest coaching and mentoring on the part of the school: letters, meetings, More supervision during break time, sanctions. Can the school psychologist also give advice on this topic?</p>	<p>Elizabeth Mason, Head of Secondary: After doing a student survey the feedback we have received is that there is very little bullying at HeadStart. Without specific reports of incidents the school cannot take action. Home room teachers and the deputy head deals with all issues that are reported. Bullying and other such topics are covered in the PSHE curriculum and in all school assemblies.</p>
<p>Car Park Safety #1: We are concerned about the car park: parents should set an example for their children by following the rules. If parents don't care and break the rules, this is where disrespect to others is born. We would like to suggest that a letter goes out to all students and parents regarding rules of the car park. It should have the aim of teaching mutual respect on the road. We strongly believe that kids can also be teachers for their parents.</p>	<p>Management: Numerous reminders and announcements have been made in the weekly update and HeadStart Facebook. We as management will continue to urge parents and guardians to drive safely and follow the rules via written and verbal communication. Our security team is on duty through rain or shine assisting and reminding parents of the rules although they aren't always given the respect due.</p>
<p>Car Park Safety #2: Improve car park safety. Some parents would like bigger signage when entering the car park that says drive slow in multiple languages.</p>	<p>Management:</p>
<p>Car Park Safety #3: Parents are worried about the car park safety as they witnessed an accident that took place when a parent drove over the walkway. Suggestion: install bollards alongside pedestrian zone and make curb higher.</p>	<p>Management:</p>

<p>Secondary Diaries: What is the purpose of the diary in secondary? The pages are always blank and parents are supposed to sign it but for why?</p>	<p>Elizabeth Mason, Head of Secondary: We are going electronic. All homework and information that used to be on the diaries will be accessible through the student/parent portal as of August 2018.</p>
<p>Telephones at School: No phones on in class for students AND teachers.</p>	<p>Management: As management, we agree. Teachers have been reminded not to use their telephones in class unless for educational purposes.</p>
<p>English Lessons: Can there be English lessons for parents of the school?</p>	<p>Management: Yes! As of 2017 we have offered English lessons for parents on Tuesday and Thursday every week. This has been announced in the weekly updates, the Facebook page and on the bulletin boards at school. Parents who are interested in joining the classes should contact Mr. Joel Adams by writing to jadams@headstartphuket.com</p>
<p>School Reports: Can reports be distributed before Parents/Teacher Conferences (PTC) and not same time?</p>	<p>Adam Drew, Headmaster: Reports are uploaded to the portal on the day of the PTC and also given as a hardcopy at the PTC. The school feels it is better to review the reports with the parents at the PTC, as in the past many parents have decided not to attend the PTC if they have already received the report. The dialogue between teachers and parents is critical to the success of the students and their learning outcomes.</p>
<p>Sixth Form: Better preparation for A Levels; better study area, access to a quiet room that is intended for homework and study only. Or longer library hours.</p>	<p>Adam Drew, Headmaster: Sixth Form improvements are being implemented over the summer break which will greatly improve the study area and atmosphere for students. The Sixth Form study room is now a dedicated space for Y12 and 13 only and not a mixed use venue. There is more seating and a desk has been provided per student to work at. Both the Head of Sixth Form and Director of Academics are based in the sixth-form study room in order to monitor student activity.</p>
<p>Exam Dates: Can parents receive official exam dates at the start of the academic year</p>	<p>Richard Lukats, Academic Director: Exact exam dates are not available to parents but as a school we always have provided the exam periods via the school calendar.</p>
<p>Performances and Exams: Can the drama and dance productions be schedules after exams?</p>	<p>Erika Cramp, Head of Creative Arts Faculty: This year we will hold our Christmas production involving CAPA students after exam week. There will be some overlap as we need to prepare for the show but we will keep in mind when exams are taking place. Students will not be expected to come out of classes until after exam week. The Dance Academy show will also be after exams.</p>
<p>Transportation for Academy Students: Is there a possibility to set up a bus service for after academies</p>	<p>Management: Unfortunately due to the timing of the buses returning from their rounds to drop off students, it is not possible for the school to arrange an additional trip for the academy students.</p>
<p>Access to Therapists: We would like access to a teacher or therapist that knows how to work with learning disabilities like dyslexia.</p>	<p>Management: The school's Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Michael Atkins can support your child if they have any Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) or any Emotional, Behavioural or Social Difficulty (EBSD). Mr Atkins works with teachers to differentiate for students in their class who are diagnosed with a Learning Difficulty and he is able to work with parents in identifying the appropriate support for their child if they or teachers have concerns. This could result in a referral to the Educational Psychologist that works with the school, external support from speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and/or psychiatrists. Mr Atkins also works with many children on a regular basis; supporting their wellbeing and academics as required. If you have any concerns or questions about additional support for you child you should contact Mr Atkins or the pastoral lead for the phase of the school your child is in.</p> <p>Mr Atkins matkins@headstartphuket.com Foundation- Ms Scott- fscott@headstartphuket.com, Primary- Mr Hornby- jhornby@headstartphuket.com Secondary- Mr Barker- jbarker@headstartphuket.com</p>

<p>What is the role of the school psychologist?</p>	<p>Management: Dr Debora Previti has an office in school where she is able to work with children but she is a private clinician who charges for her services. Dr Previti works with children who have been referred to her by the schools Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Mr Michael Atkins. Dr Previti is able to provide psychological assessments which may or may not result in a course of therapy or training to support a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) or Emotional, Behavioural, Social Difficulties (EBSD). Dr Previti works with the school SENCO by giving advice and guidance which informs students Individual Learning Plans (ILP's) and she also works with teachers (as required) to support their practice. If you are interested in accessing her services the please contact Mr Atkins matkins@headstartphuket.com in the first instance.</p>
<p>Year 12 Practical Lessons: For Year 12, practical lessons need to be integrated in the time tables so that students can get the sufficient practical skills to pass their AS level practical exams instead of preparing them just a month before the exams.</p>	<p>Adam Drew, Headmaster: Year 12 students have practical lessons throughout the school year ranging from small, short 'practicals' where skills are developed, leading to more complex and longer 'practicals' as the term and year progresses. The best time to practice for the AS practical exams is during Term 2. Students take the practical exam towards the end of May and start of June, giving ample time to be prepared for the assessment.</p>
<p>Amount of IGCSEs: Will the school consider reducing the no of subjects taken in IGCSE, for example 8 subjects instead of 10, as the minimum requirements are 5 subjects. Isn't it better to focus on quality than quantity? More able students have the option to take more subjects.</p>	<p>Adam Drew, Headmaster: Students take an average of 9 IGCSEs, with some taking as many as 10 and a few taking 8. For students who are weaker at the sciences and who are not able to complete English Literature, they do only take 8 subjects already. In cases where a student is struggling significantly, parents are consulted and in some cases students drop down to only 6 or 7 subjects. This is not common, but has happened to 1-2 students in the last academic year. The main goal is always to initially ensure students can pass 5 IGCSEs and then ensure they have the right number of IGCSEs as well as the correct ones. The most able students in the past have taken between 11-13 IGCSEs.</p>
<p>University/School Counselor: Is HeadStart considering hiring a University/school counselor? In order to assist students with their career choices and University applications.</p>	<p>Adam Drew, Headmaster: The new Head of Sixth Form, Gemma Caines, is very experienced in applications and both set up sixth-forms in previous schools and developed them throughout her tenure, including preparing students for applications to universities in America, Europe and Asia. Ms Caines can be contacted via email by writing to gcaines@headstartphuket.com or by visiting her in her office on the third floor.</p>