

Parent Committee Meeting Agenda and Conclusion, Term 1 of Year 2018 - 2019

Thursday 1 November 2018

Presented by	Meeting Point	Conclusion
Anna	1. "HOUSEHOLD"	
	a. Taking into consideration a number of respiratory diseases during past months and thinking about prevention parents concern about aircons' cleaning and maintenance schedule. Is that determined? How often? Parents suggest every 3 months.	All classrooms air conditioning filters are cleaned once every 60 days. Every airconditioning unit in the school has a maintenance check slip attached on the wall in close proximity to the air conditioning unit. The date of each cleaning is written on the check slip for easy tracking.
	b. Parents suggest to shorten P.E. and swimming lessons for at least 5 mins to give students more time to complete their hygiene routine. Secondary students must change their clothes after P.E. to reduce a bad smell in their classrooms. Primary students also confess they are rushed by the deputy staff after swimming and don't have time to shower and dry properly, especially long-haired. As a result we have some issues of skin rashes, irritations and colds.	Adam and Richard. Students in upper primary and secondary school who want to shower at the end of PE lessons are given the option to leave the lesson 5 minutes early to do this. Students are encouraged, and many do, bring a change of clothes to change into after the lesson. All students in the school wear their PE Kit to school on a PE day. All students that do swimming have a shower to remove any residue from the swimming pool water, on the poolside.

	<p>c. A question about groups of adults and children who use the HeadStart sports facilities at 6:00 pm every evening, particularly, about swimming groups practicing at 6:00 pm.</p> <p>HeadStart parents are not allowed to enter the changing rooms of the pool. We always try to follow the school rules.</p> <p>Therefore, parents, mostly mothers, having sons, have to shout or ask someone to call their sons in case of any necessity.</p> <p>At the same time, people from outside (men, in particular) enter the changing rooms and use them at 6:00 pm, finding themselves there with the swimming academy students, who finished the academy training at the same time - 6:00 pm.</p> <p>Parents are concerned about this fact, as well as the hygiene of showers and changing rooms used by adult outsiders.</p>	<p>Richard. The adult in question has been identified as a parent of a child who attends the Thai Swimming sessions after 6.00 pm. He has been informed that he must not enter the changing rooms and that he changes upstairs in the adult/visitor's changing room. The academy staff will be extra vigilant in the changing rooms around the change overs from school - ASP - Academy - Thai Swim sessions. All staff have been reminded of the school policy around adults in the changing rooms and supervision of the changing rooms.</p>
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	<p>d. Theft and misappropriation of other students' belongings. We've got numerous issues from parents of stolen belongings: starting from bottles and stationary, bags and uniforms to shoes and iPhones. This is necessary to remind both parents and students about possible consequences, responsibility, property, privacy, law etc. on regular basis.</p> <p>Advise parents to personalize students belongings, check their children's stuff regularly and return items belonging to someone else to the school.</p> <p>Students must learn to supervise, take care of, and value their belongings as well.</p>	<p>Adam - Student are (and will again) be reminded of the importance of putting names on items such as water bottles, uniforms etc... and also to take care of their own belongs around school. For example, Mr Barker and I often find high value items left laying around the school, including in the last month, and expensive laptop and an iPhone X. In the first instance this does come down to students lookign after their possetions, and the school in educating students to take this care.</p> <p>Our stduents are typically very good at handing in items they find which don't belong to them. In the case that a student does lose and item, or feels it has been taken, the school does have an extensive CCTV system. If a student reports a loss to the relevant Deputy Head, he can authorise the search of the CCTV to try and locate it, provided the student can give some detail as to where they last had the item, or where they may have left it.</p> <p>Very often, lost items are found, however, sometimes this does take time and intervention from Deputy Heads and Homeroom teachers.</p>
	<p>e. ASP tennis classes for the youngest take place at 14.30-16.20, under the afternoon sun. Children play tennis in direct sunlight, complaining of heat and stuffiness. They are under a potential risk of heat or sunstroke. Is it possible to install any cover that will protect the court from both direct sunlight and rain?</p>	<p>Due to the limited amount of space around the tennis court, it was not designed to have a roof. We have spoken with the company that plans to build the tennis club oposite the school and they have confirmed that they will start construction work on the club before the end of 2018. They plan to have both indoor and outdoor courts which would be available for the school to use to expand the tennis program.</p>

	<p>f. Primary. Add snack time during last afternoon break (13.55-14.15). Young students attending ASP classes (especially sports) and Sport Academies are starving during the classes and have no power for the sport activities. Parents, if have time and opportunity, have to come at 15.20 or 16.20 to feed their children before sports and stay at school and wait to pick them up. This is a huge waste of time. If parents are busy or working this time, students stay hungry. Besides, only 10 mins left to wash hands, eat, digest and change uniforms before the classes start. As a result of that rush, students are hungry or get stomach problems and are not able to work out productively.</p>	<p>Anisa- We have added a more substantial snack in the afternoon for hungry Primary students. Secondary students can pre-order from the cafe menu and it will be ready when they need it. Sam - Concerning pupils bring in a 'second' snack that is stored in class and given to the pupil during the afternoon break. Teachers would be fine to do this and Primary is happy to purchase a storage container to keep these snacks separate from any morning snacks. (SK's favoured solution)</p>
	<p>2. “the CAFE”</p>	
	<p>a. Clarify cafe working hours. Though scheduled closure time is 17.00, people notice it's impossible to make a purchase after 16.35.</p>	<p>The cafe is open from 07:30 - 5:00 p.m. The last order from the a la carte menu will be taken at 4:30. This is stated on the menu and will be up on the menu boards in a few weeks.</p>

	<p>b. Parents beg to replace displayed artisan chocolate and sweets out of reach and sight of young children. This is up to a parent to buy it or not, but young children often open the fridge glass by themselves, touch everything and grab the chocolate without permission.</p> <p>-This is not hygienic since most children touch all chocolates while picking.</p> <p>-This force a parent to a purchase (one little piece of chocolate costs 40 baht, same price as normal nutritious sandwich).</p> <p>-Often parent's attempts of refusing the purchase make young children and toddlers cry.</p> <p>We suggest to move the chocolate on the shelf above the average young child's height.</p>	<p>The chocolates have been moved up to the top shelf of the display fridge so it is not on eye level of the younger children. Children are not able to touch them as they are only accessible to staff from the inside counter.</p>
	<p>c. Add "old school" milkshakes (e.g. milk and banana, yogurt and berries), smoothies or coconut water to the menu. Fast, nutritious and digestible meal for kids on the go.</p>	<p>The cafe staff have created a "Special Drinks Menu" including smoothies, milkshakes and fruit shakes. Some examples on the list are: Banana Milkshake, Mixed Fruit Shake, Mango Smoothie, Passionfruit Smoothie, Coconut Cream Shake, Mixed Berry Smoothie, Dark Chocolate Milkshake, Coffee Frappe</p>
	<p>3. "EDUCATIONAL PROCESS"</p>	
	<p>a. Primary Y1, Y2: Change 3 Russian / 2 Thai language classes to 4 Russian/1 Thai per week.</p>	<p>The current schedule for first language options will remain for this academic year. For next academic year, we will make changes to the overall school timetables to allow all first language classes to be taught 4 periods per week for Year 1 - 9.</p>

	<p>b. Secondary: Replace “entertaining” ASP classes which are not popular among students, by additional classes or consultations or boosters on IGCSE subjects. Students wish to focus on core subjects. Distribute boosters to different days of the week (now Maths, Science and Languages - all in one day).</p>	<p>Richard and Anisa: Academic boosters are spread out over 4 days of the week, with core subjects on separate days for students in a year group. In the case of Year 10 and 11, because they are covering a larger number of subjects in IGCSE's there will always be multiple subject boosters on the same day. Some faculties have offered to run their boosters on 2 days in the week giving students the option to decide which day they are available to attend. IGCSE students would need to prioritise which subjects they need help in the most.</p>
	<p>c. Starting from Y10-11, regularly (e.g. as lectures for students and meetings for parents) conduct explanatory work about the common worldwide higher education system, structure, methods, ways of choice and necessary actions (e.g. exams, papers and documents, terms and conditions, some tips and advices) for admission to college or university. Parents, in the absence of experience of international education and a lack of English language, are powerless sometimes to help their children arrange and advise their future education. Would be nice for students to get this information from the school in advance to be aware of the system and make a choice and decision earlier.</p>	<p>Richard: Over the course of this academic year, students and parents, will be given opportunities to learn more about what is required, in terms of admissions and what students will experience, if they are going onto further study at a higher education institution. This will vary greatly depending on the country a student wants to study in and their own background/nationality. There will be a series of information meetings and question and answer sessions, led by Ms Caines, in Term 3 and a series of sessions with students from Y9-Y13 throughout the year.</p>
	<p>4. “SOCIAL LIFE”</p>	

	<p>a. To brighten students' social life and for the purpose of "team-building", parents suggest to arrange discotheques (dancing parties) in the school, students divided by age groups. For example, Christmas fancy dress discotheque etc. It might be organized with the help of parents (snacks, supervision) and students (DJ, music selection).</p>	<p>As the events manager and also as a parent, I am more than willing to work with parents to organise additional events for the students outside of school time. Please send in your suggestions and ideas by writing to cedouard@headstartphuket.com. Since the school already has some basic facilities that can be used for events of this nature, it would just be a matter of coordinating the time so that it does not coincide with exams or other school events. Parents in the organisational team would have to also take into account covering expenses either by ticket sales or finding sponsors. Keeping in mind that adult supervision is of paramount importance, the organising committee would have to ensure that there are enough parent volunteers to oversee the students properly as in most cases school staff will not be available to assist if the event falls on a weekend or out of contracted hours.</p>
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	<p>b. In the list of events for this year, there are no remarkable parties and celebrations with the participation of the whole HeadStart community, such as Halloween, Moms' Party, International day etc., which have always been liked and appreciated by parents and students and served to unite and improve communications of the community. What are the plans for these events, will any of them take place or not?</p>	<p>A list of annual HeadStart events were announced in a weekly update and have been posted on the school Facebook page and website (https://headstartphuket.com/school-life/calendar) since the beginning of the academic school year. If you review the itinerary you will notice that all activities remain the same with the exception of Halloween and International Day. As a management team we have observed that as school events increased, participation decreased making the events organised less effective yet time consuming for the staff and organisers. In regards to International Day, the decision was made to give it a one year break due to the fact that the 2017-2018 International Day was indeed the most difficult event to organise despite the fact that it was advertised to take place in a cooler venue (sports hall) and despite the school offering a stipend to those who contributed food and drinks.</p>
<p>Busaba</p>	<p>Putting an ATM machine in the school. e.g. Two years ago, I let Vasco opened a bank account with ATM card and I started to give him weekly allowance by transfer money into his bank's account instead of giving cash. By doing this he does not need to carry a lot of money with him. It helps him to do some saving. When he would like to buy books and any items online he does not need to use my credit card.</p>	<p>We have again spoken with different banks and unfortunately none of them want to install an ATM at the school unless the machine is installed directly on the side of the road in front of the school. Installing an ATM on the road front will force students and parents to have to walk out on the road to access the machine and would also mean more people parking temporarily on the side of the road. We think the safety aspects outweigh the benefits in this case and we have decided not to install the ATM machine. We have however set up 3 QR Code payment points in the school which means payments can now be made directly from an account by scanning the code with your mobile phone.</p>

Nandie	When it rains, the water comes down like a curtain on both sides of the roof of carpark walk way. Would gutters be considered in the near future?	The solar pannels are joined to give shade but they are not designed to be a waterproof roofing solution. This means that there will always be some water getting through the space between the pannels. Gutters will be installed between the pannels and the walkway to reduce the amount of water that pours inbetween
	Older kids - turning the wall area along the track into a 'climbing wall'	Climbing walls need specific cushion pads and/or climbing equipment and the wall around the track is not the right place to put such equipment. Instead, we have purchased the Tayplay Active 6000 rope climbing frame which will be installed in the primary playground. http://www.tayplay.com/active-6000 This equipment is built and designed in the UK and meets all of the European safety standards. The equipment is currently being shipped from the UK and should be installed some time in Term 2.
School	Exam success	Adam - Shared a number of key successes of our students over the last year. This included record results in Year 6,9,11 and 12. The highest number of 6.0s in Cambridge checkpoints, 41%A*/A at IGCSE, 94%A*/C, The best results we have had at AS Level with 71% of students achiveing A*/B, including 6 students achiveing Top in Thailand (placing us in 6th position in the Cambridge Leaner Awards (across ALL schools, and in the whole of Thailand). Some students in YEar 13 are now on track to achieve 4 A* grades at the full A Level which will be a remarkable achievement. A number of students have already recieved offers at UK and US university, one has been accepted into all 5 universities she applied.

School	Primary student leadership	Sam- The upper Primary now has an elected Student Leadership body. Years 4,5 and 6 have School Council Representatives. Primary also has a Deputy Head Boy and Girl and a Head Boy and Girl. Thier current topics to discuss are addtional play equipment for lunchtimes and wet play games in classrooms for when the pupils cannot utilise the outdoor play spaces.
Sara	French Language for term 2 and 3	Adam - The school have been meeting various groups of parents who requested meetings with us about the French and Languages programmes going forward. A meeting will be held on Thursdy 29th of November to go over the finalised programme and student options moving forward. Student in Y9 and above will be able to remin studying Foriegn Language French for the remainder of this year, and students studying IGCSE & AS Level French, will be able to continue these programmes int he following year.