

Parent Committee Meeting Agenda and Conclusions

Term 2 -- Thursday, 28th February 2019

Meeting Point	Conclusion
Administering of medicine to students	<p>The school procedure regarding pupils that require medicine in school is very clearly mentioned in the Parent Handbooks and available on our website. Details regarding illness and medicines in school are also shared by management and Homeroom teachers during our Orientation Day at the beginning of the school year. In the Foundation Handbook the section on medication reads as follows: <i>We take all illnesses very seriously in Foundation and advise all parents to keep their child at home if they are taking any form of medication. If your child is ill enough to need medicine, then they should be kept at home. If your child has been prescribed medicine by a doctor, we strongly advise that your child stays at home to complete the course of medicine and to ensure all symptoms have been treated. If your Doctor has authorised a return to school whilst medication is still required, the school nurse and the homeroom teacher must be informed. Students should store their medication with the nurse and have it dispensed by our nursing staff.</i></p> <p>In our Primary and Secondary Handbooks the section on medicine at school reads as follows: <i>If you send your child to school with any form of medication, the school nurse and the Homeroom teacher must be informed. Pupils should store their medication with the nurse and have it dispensed by our nursing staff.</i></p> <p>The vast majority of parents know, understand and respect the school policy regarding medicines in school. We have two qualified nurses and they are quick to monitor the medicines given to them for pupils, and why. If our nurses feel that the medication can be administered at home then they will inform parents. If the nurses have any concerns regarding the medicine and any potential ongoing illness they will assess a pupil and if necessary recommend that the pupil go home until he or she is fully recovered.</p>
Nurse - All major or minor incident/accident reports can be sent to parents via school portal.	The nurse does contact parents in the event of any significant injury or accident at school and if the child is Thai, a follow-up call is made by the School Director. All medical incidents are recorded within Engage (School Portal).
Trash cans in the playground	The rubbish bins in front of the coffee shop were temporarily removed during the expansion of the coffee shop. We will place two bins in the front of the coffee shop and two bins inside the coffee shop.
Charity support through donations for school events	The point raised was that it was felt that given the school shows and events are free, we could organise an option charity 'collection box' at shows where parents could donate to the school's chosen charity. HeadStart has one charity which we raise money for each term and any money collected from these charity boxes would be donated to that cause. Adam will pass this on to the school's charity coordinator to implement for future shows.

<p>Face masks available in classrooms (especially Foundation)</p>	<p>The school feels that at this time it would not be appropriate to promote the wearing of face masks by pupils. There are number of reasons for this.</p> <p>Firstly, the school, and especially the Foundation Stage, has robust systems in place to monitor the health of our pupils and staff. All Foundation pupils are asked to wash hands when entering the building in the morning. Pupils also have their temperature taken. Pupils with a temperature are sent home. Pupils are taught and encouraged to wash their hands and stay clean throughout the day. Our systems for screening pupil health are effective, and this was further stressed when earlier this year our Foundation Stage was able to control and eradicate a viral outbreak and remain open whilst a number of other Early Years establishments around the island had to close for a number of days.</p> <p>Secondly, the wearing of a face mask by a pupil would seriously impede that pupil's ability to function in a Foundation Stage classroom and could present a Health and Safety risk to the pupil, and his/her peers. If a child presented at school with a face mask on, then as a school we would question the parent as to why that child was wearing a face mask. If the child was unwell and needed a face mask then we would question why that child was being brought to school. This child would be referred to the school nurse and sent home if deemed unwell.</p> <p>On very rare occasions an adult member of staff may be seen wearing a face mask, but this is a precautionary measure and not an indication that a member of staff is unwell. As with the pupils, members of staff that are unwell are asked to go home, or stay at home and do not come to work until fully recovered.</p>
<p>Quality of water. The water from water stations gets bad odour and taste when bottled; bottles get covered with green mold from inside. Students prefer to take water from the dining hall stations only as other stations seem to produce water with an unpleasant taste.</p>	<p>All of the water stations in the school use one common water supply. This means that the quality of the water each station receives is the same. Each station has a stand-alone filtration unit which includes a UV filter. The filters for each station are cleaned by the Maintenance staff one time per month. Every term, the quality of the water for each station is checked by a third party and the water is sent to a lab for testing. The lab report and certificate are displayed next to each water station.</p>
<p>Disgusting odour around the swimming pool and the playground area, supposedly from the drainage system.</p>	<p>The grease trap for the Coffee shop was not functioning correctly and this resulted in a foul odour in the drains around the coffee shop and near the walkway to the sport hall. The grease trap was repaired on March 9th and the drains will be flushed and cleaned on March 16th. This process should eliminate or at least significantly reduce the unpleasant odour in these areas.</p>
<p>School bus number 3 is constantly late to school (later than 8 a.m.) after the route changed in December to pick up one student from Kamala. That student comes late regularly to her scheduled pick-up time too. Other parents informed the staff several times, complained etc., but failed to solve this problem within admin office.</p>	<p>The school is purchasing 2 additional vans in order to add more routes to the school bus provision. This should enable us to make more direct routes to more areas which will hopefully enable students to arrive at school on time. The additional buses and routes are scheduled to start from Term 3.</p>

<p>Parents are interested to be systematically informed by the school about various intellectual contests, olympiads and challenges (maths, science, history, biology etc.) which are important and have value for an international education system. It would be nice if the students who are talented and interested in participating could get support from the school by having extra intellectual clubs, like Science club or similar. Examples: https://www.ismc.sg,</p> <p>TIMO Thailand https://www.thaiimo.com etc.</p>	<p>The school does indeed want to give parents more access to academic competitions to supplement the ones we already have, such as the Worlds Scholars Cup, History Bee and Bowl, Thai Etiquette and Culture and of course, the numerous sporting competitions we enter. The school cannot support all competitions, and in particular, often notification of Thai competitions is received very late as was the case with TIMO (Thailand International Mathematics Olympics). We were informed less than two weeks before the registration deadline. Examples like these do not give enough time for us to prepare students adequately for the event or organise a school trip. Therefore, we will encourage students to enter these competitions, and share details of them to our parents as soon as we receive them, however, we will not be able to support students as a school in all competitions. In some cases parents/students will be able to make an entry individually for competitions that the school is not officially entering a team. We are looking at trying to increase the number of competitions we can enter locally and nationally, however, we do need to be mindful of parental budgets with some of the bigger competitions that have very high entry fees or long distance overseas trips. We will keep parents informed of all competitions either that the school is intending to enter, or that has become available for them to enter individually.</p>
<p>A lack of available seats in the cafeteria at the time from 15.20 to 16.30. Parents cannot feed their children or have a meal themselves because seats are occupied by other students sitting with their devices, chatting, waiting for their classes at 16.30. Obviously the students need some air-conditioning space to spend this time with their computers. Maybe open the library till 16.30?</p>	<p>The school library is open until 16:30pm, however, students are not allowed to game or use their devices in there at all. Students will be allowed to be in the cafe, provided they are not gaming. If students are gaming in large groups in the cafe, they will be asked to leave and find an alternative venue. Students may use other areas of the school or they may go to the 'late pick up room' (Dining Room) where they will be allowed to game on one of the many available tables in there.</p>
<p>Many free ASPs are inefficient and look like just the way to spend one more additional hour at school, but not to learn something interesting and useful. For example, Chess club or Table tennis: students are not taught to play chess or table tennis at all (no any theory or game rules provided), they simply play with each other in any way they can.</p>	<p>Students should be actively engaged in all of the ASP programmes that we offer. We are in the process of implementing a thorough monitoring programme of all of our ASP programmes where each ASP will be visited by a senior member of staff at least once per term to review the activities that are happening, which students are present and whether there is meaningful and enriching activities. The only time an ASP may be less interactive/teacher led, is if the assigned teacher is absent and the ASP is 'covered' by another teacher who may not be an expert in that subject or skill. The management team will monitor ASP provision and ensure it remains a positive aspect of the school.</p>

<p>The problem of gaming at school.</p> <p>For example in Primary: in spite of the school policy, some Primary students come to school with their devices full of games and use them at the dining hall during late pick up time. This affects other young children and makes them addicted to those games.</p> <p>We feel like both students and parents need to be made aware that the problem exists so that we can improve the situation.</p>	<p>The policy regarding Primary pupils and smart phones and tablets is very clear. Pupils are allowed to bring in these items but they must remain off and put away during the school day. Any items used during the day by pupils are removed and kept by the teacher and returned to the parent(s) of the pupil in question.</p> <p>The issue of pupils using smart phones and other media devices after school is one that is under review by HeadStart Management. There is a slight issue whereby pupils wait for late pick up and /or an academy may be using electronic devices in the Dining Hall late pick up area. A decision regarding whether this should be allowed will be made by the Management Team in coming weeks and announced to parents.</p>
<p>Parents suggest to provide safety lessons for children with helpful topics like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stranger Danger -Strangers in Cars -Yell & Tell -Know a Safe Zone -When Playing Outside -Using a Computer -Using the Phone -Gifts from Strangers <p>Some useful information can be found here: https://www.safety4kids.com.au</p>	<p>The Secondary School follows a comprehensive Personal, Social and Health Education Curriculum. Students are taught and exposed to various issues within their PSHE lessons, Homeroom sessions and Assemblies. In addition to this students are exposed to other issues through specific subjects e.g. the dangers of using social media in ICT. The curriculum is different for each year group as the topics covered will have age related relevance. We use a wide range of sources to support our programme and update the programme yearly to take into account new information and to react to a fast changing world.</p> <p>In Primary the issue of on-line safety is one that is covered in our Computing Curriculum and is embedded throughout the curriculum and revisited every year at least once. The Primary team has recently revised our Personal Social and Health Education curriculum and 'staying safe' is a key aspect of our updated curriculum. This revised curriculum will be rolled out in Term 3. It is also part of the existing curriculum but our updated curriculum has a more robust approach towards the topic of 'staying safe'.</p> <p>The issue of on-line safety and regulating the use of electronic media was also discussed in assemblies and in Homerooms by teachers during our 'Healthy Living Week' earlier this year.</p> <p>In Term 3, the Head of Primary will be delivering a range of assemblies focusing on the topic of 'Staying Safe'. This will also be reinforced by the delivery of a Tuesday parent meeting focusing on how parents can monitor their children at home and ensure that they are not visiting websites that are unsuitable and/or making themselves vulnerable on-line in other ways. The Head of Primary has also reinforced the topic and learning around the issue of on-line safety by creating a display outside his office on the second floor. A similar display will be placed outside the Deputy Head's office on the third floor.</p> <p>A 'staying safe' and 'on-line safety' mural in a prominent position in school is also something being considered by the Management Team.</p>

<p>P.E. Department - To request for all sport academy to hold a meeting at the beginning of the academic year in order to introduce coaches and other relevant personnel, goals and objectives with the parents.</p>	<p>We will ensure that this is implemented for the start of the next academic year as requested. Parents with children invited to either of the academies (Football and Swimming) will meet to discuss the programme, expectations, likely trips etc..</p>
<p>Sport - any competition that the students won upon representing the school - a suggest to provide the students with a certificate of achievement to the students.</p>	<p>Students in the Secondary school that compete and win competitions are often provided with certificates from the organiser of the competition. Where certificates are not issued there is often a medal or trophy given to the winner. Whilst we endeavour to present students with these medals/trophies in assemblies, it is not always possible to do so. Students that win a competition and that do not receive a certificate can be provided with a certificate from school recognising their achievement. However this would have to be done on a case by case basis as some organisations would not allow a school to use their name on an in house certificate.</p>
<p>Car park area adjacent to the playground - Visible no smoking signs – School should be kept as smoke free zone. / Smoking - shouldn't be allowed on school premises including parking lot.</p>	<p>The security staff have been informed to be more vigilant and to ask parents to respect the no smoking signs in the car park.</p>
<p>Cars that park in the area adjacent to the playground should be prohibited from keeping their engine running.</p>	<p>We have placed signs around the car park to encourage parents to turn off their engines when parked in the school parking facility however, this is not a policy which our security staff can enforce. We ask that parents please be mindful of student's health and respectful of the environment by turning off their engines.</p>
<p>Boosters - should be for students struggling and needs a bit of extra help, not for students who wants to go from a A to A*</p>	<p>Boosters are indeed for struggling students and not for the top students. There were problems in Term 1 where some students had signed up despite being A* grade students. For the Term 2&3 sign-up, the lists are pre-populated and students & parents are not able to sign up unless students are on the lists that Heads of Faculty have requested. Boosters are there to ensure that as many of our students as possible reach the passing grade in a subject. Additional 'clinics' and clubs do exist in some faculties in order to cater for all students.</p>
<p>Café - Processed sweets – signs outside the café promoting less sugar intakes. Once passed the door, the chiller displays selection of homemade desserts. Homemade cupcakes or cakes are acceptable, the marshmallow/chocolate/Oreos - processed sweets! These items alone already are not so good themselves, so the café is now selling</p>	<p>HeadStart promotes healthy eating and healthy living, and this is reflected through the curriculum as well as the Lunch buffet and snacks we serve to the students. Our School Handbook says the following about the school cafe: The coffee shop has a snack section which is available to Secondary students during the school day and available to all students after school hours. The student snack section includes healthy options made by our kitchen staff as well as other general snack options which students can choose from. Primary students must use the cafe accompanied by an adult, this gives parents the option of whether or not they want to allow their child access to what is available in the coffee shop. However, due to repeated requests from parents to remove the marshmallow-men, they will no longer be available at the cafe.</p>

<p>them as all-in-one pieces. If these were meant to be sold to secondary students, the look of the product seems to attract a younger target group perhaps?</p>	
<p>Secondary Maths - parent and students not happy with the maths results and saying the students don't understand the way the teachers explain/teach. Often comes home with homework they can't complete.</p>	<p>There was a more expansive discussion about Maths and Maths Teachers in the meeting, at which the Senior Management of the school emphasised the importance that the school puts on Maths and the effort it goes to recruit the right Maths Teachers. In reference to the 'parent and students not happy', this does seem to be quite an isolated issue involving one parent and one or two students which should be voiced as a compliant to the Head of Secondary. However the Head of Secondary and the Head of Faculty for Maths have spent a lot of time looking into this and can share the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Maths Teacher in question is highly qualified and experienced in teaching Maths and especially in developing higher order Maths skills in students. 2. The pedagogy employed was to develop the independent learning skills of students. Some students have struggled with this and now alternative strategies are also being used which have a higher degree of emphasis on collaboration and support. 3. All the classes in that particular year group have been relooked at to get the right balance as students move towards an important exam. 4. The homework that was set was done in a way to give students alternative options and provide questions that would give them meaningful work for the next few weeks and was explicitly not expected to be completed in one evening. 5. Groupings and staffing of the year group in question will be reviewed directly after the upcoming exams.
<p>Parent Survey Feedback</p>	<p>Parent survey results were presented and the highest and lowest scoring questions highlighted as well as the school's 5 key performance indicators. Explanations and thoughts moving forward were discussed, although overall, the results show a significant positive improvement in many areas.</p>
<p>Term 3 Open Mornings - Parent Tours</p>	<p>In term 3, members of the parent committee will be invited to a 'guided learning tour' of the school. There will be small groups escorted around by a member of the management team and these groups will have the opportunity to visit lessons and to see the school 'in-action'. There will be an opportunity for parents to see the wonderful things that are going on in and out of the classroom. Following the tours, there will be a short meeting and lunch will be provided in the canteen.</p>
<p>School Fees</p>	<p>School Tuition fees will not be increased and will remain the same for the 2019 - 2020 academic year. This will be the third year that the school fees have not increased.</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>Teaching staff turn-over is the lowest it has ever been for the next academic year with 90% of teachers leaving remaining at the school. There will be a total of 14 new teaching staff next year, due to expansion and additional staff members being recruited.</p>