

Homebush Boys High School - P & C Meeting 20th November 2012

Meeting opened: 7.05pm.

Presidents Welcome:

Simone Burton welcomed current members and new parents to the evening and advised that tonight we will be reflecting on the past year, sharing ideas and collective wisdom. She began by thanking Kim Houhlias for the wonderful 'Safari/Cruise' table display and flowers that she so lovingly kindly arranged.

Parents were given paper and pens and asked to jot down their ideas on how we can keep our sons interested in school, keep them focused, energised and on task and entertained. Each parent had the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns and we came up with a wonderful list of ideas:-

1. Parents should read the HBHS webpage regularly as information is posted frequently about the school, boys and events. . Go to: www.homebushbo-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Parents should also read the Bush Bulletin with their sons to allow them to talk about matters to do with the school. This in turn gives the parent/child the opportunity to engage in conversation and that way, learn more about what is happening at school but also the opportunity to hear what our children have to say on matters at and about the school. 2
2. Parents should listen as much as they speak! Take time to respond rather than reacting instantly. And don't get disgruntled if your son only responds to you with a nod of his head or a grunt...it's a start.
3. Give our sons time to unwind at the end of the day before putting the pressure of homework upon them.
4. Find some common ground to communicate or talk with your sons about sport as this is a least stressful subject and may be the basis to get a conversation going.
5. Keep a copy of your son's assessments and due dates handy so that they and you are reminded as the time draws near. This may alleviate undue stress.
6. Give you sons a 'warning time' before they have to get off the computer and go to bed. Sometimes they are in the middle of a task (or a game) that cannot just be shut down instantly and this may save a big argument at the end of the night.
7. Keep the computer in the lounge room or a room other than their bedrooms so that you can monitor what they are looking at.
8. Instil in your child that computers and their use are based on 'trust'. Trust can be easily lost and hard to earn back if they do the wrong thing.
9. Encourage your sons to use the library facilities more. The library holds a wealth of knowledge which is free!
10. Discuss with your son about which teachers at school he has a good repour with or who he can turn to if he needs advise. Tell your son that it is ok to ask for or seek help.
11. Use proverbs, quotations or small points of view to encourage communication within the house.
12. Get your children out of the house and away from computers on the weekend – play sport, do things together as a family. Give lots of love to your sons. Be patient.

After the discussion, parents watched a power point presentation on all the things that the P & C have achieved at the school in 2012 and following that, parents discussed topics they would like to see discussed in 2013:-

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1. Cyber bullying
2. Technology and Developments
3. Communication – web links for parents on the HBHS site and more information regarding online resources and ebooks
4. Career opportunities/TAFE options
(For more information on careers go to: www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au and explore or download the 'CAREER BULLSEYE POSTER' which have been updated to better reflect possible career options and training requirements for 33 subjects. The occupational titles are now in line with Job Guide's profile titles. Or go to www.myfuture.edu.au)

Attendance: As per record book

Apologies: Nick Miller

Minutes Previous Meeting: Accepted Simon Ford/Seconded Cheryl Miller

Correspondence In: Copy of 'An open letter to the Premier' – re: funding cuts/P & C Association Insurance policy receipt/ Cheque from Nutrimerics fundraiser \$62.04/TAFE flier – 'What's happening'

Correspondence Out: Nil

Business Arising: Nil

Principal's Report:

1. Cyber bullying – Mr Jurd recently attended a Principals Conference on this matter. Congratulations to Austin Heash who presented a talk called "Put the boot into bullying" which can be found at www.facebook.com/putthebootintobullying
2. Year 7 Orientation Day on 7th December 2012
3. Peer Tutor Graduation last week
4. School Diaries – every student will receive access to on-line information
5. Senior Lawn – Mr Jurd is looking at quotes to have the area covered with shade and new furniture installed for use by the senior boys for study periods. He put to the meeting that the P & C may allocate some money in 2013 to this project. Mr Jurd to obtain from Marie Reardon an accurate account balance of the P & C Trust Account. This matter to be further discussed at our first meeting of 2013.
6. IMP – The Orchestra performed at the recent South West Sydney Region music night.

General Business:

Kim Houhlias reported on the recent Public Education rally 'Community Day of Action' on 8/11/12 that she attended. The NSW Public Education Alliance opposes funding cuts to Education by the State Government. You can visit this site at: http://www.nswtf.org.au/files/2012_10oct_11_pea_letter.pdf

Catherine Lea presented a list of FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that she has compiled for the Year 7 Orientation Day. These will be put onto the school web page.

Cheryl Miller discussed the catering requirements for the Year 7 Orientation Day. To be handed to Fiona Murray in her absence overseas. The format of the day was also discussed.

Annette Bremner voiced her annoyance at clothing shop Lowes in Burwood Plaza at their lack of keeping adequate stock of HBHS uniforms/sport clothing. Mr Jurd will follow this up with Lowes.

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Ms Dwyer informed the meeting about the Board of Studies mandatory anti-plagiarism course for Year 10 students next week.

The school is involved in Australian Business Week (ABW) activities on 26.11.12. These include things like presenting trade displays, creating advertisements and making marketing decisions.

The Year 12 Formal Graduation was on 19.11.12. The boys were very well behaved and enjoyed themselves.

Mr Khurshed spoke about Pink Ribbon Day in support of Cancer, which was run by the SRC last week. The boys raised \$1000. This week is White Ribbon Day in support of Violence against Women, run by the Prefects. The theme is 'Never Violent, Never Silent'.

Volunteering – The school is looking at different ways of encouraging boys to participate in volunteering activities.

Breakfast Club – Mr Khurshed said that the inaugural meeting held a few Tuesdays ago which was run by two 'big hearted, socially conscience boys' was a great success. The boys supplied nutritious breakfasts for students and it would appear that this may be an ongoing thing for 2013.

HBHS Anti-bullying Policy – Mr Khurshed thanked those parents and boys who worked in collaboration with him to present the updated school Anti bullying policy. This document will be put on the school website together with Ms Juska's power point presentation on Anti Bullying.

Meeting Closed: 10.00pm

Next Meeting in 2013 TBA

On behalf of your P & C President Simone Burton and the Executive we wish to thank all those parents who have attended and contributed to P & C meetings and events in 2012.

Merry Christmas and safe holidays to everyone.