

HOMEBUSH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

P & C ASSOCIATION

15th February 2011

Meeting opened: 7.50pm

Presidents welcome:

Simon Ford introduced himself to the meeting and welcomed parents to the first meeting of 2011 especially our new Year 7 parents. He then introduced Mr Bill Hilliard, Deputy Principal, (Welfare) who commenced his annual speech to Year 7 parents duly titled 'The journey your son will make at HBHS over the next 6 years'.

As always, this first meeting of the school year is thoroughly enjoyable and interesting as Mr Hilliard bestows upon us his wisdom and understanding of the life of a high school boy from Year 7 through to Year 12 or 'Boyhood to Manhood' as Mr Hilliard explains. Consider the time they spend at HBHS as 3 x two year time spans. In the first two years the boys study a compulsory selection of subjects being English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Visual Arts, PE, Music, Language and Technics. The boys sit the NAPLAN test and they are taken away on camp in the first week of school to teach them the expectations of school life, to meet new friends, have fun and to learn the rules of the school which are known affectionately as the 5 T's which are No Touching, No Taking, No Truancy, No Teasing and DO TUCK YOUR SHIRT IN. Boys usually adhere to these principles as they work their way through the grades.

The second two year span is when our sons reach Years 9 & 10. This is when our sons decide to test boundaries at school and in life. They begin to question authority and the school challenges them to question themselves in a responsible way. The boys want to be individuals and let themselves 'go' a bit. Shirt tails tend to hang out, socks somehow gather around their ankles most of the time, and their hair has a mind of its own. The boys sit NAPLAN again in Year 9 and they now select 2 subjects as their chosen electives. They continue to study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and PE. They commence their study skills programme and work towards Year 10 School Certificate.

The third two year span is Years 11 & 12. Our sons have generally settled down again and go back to combing their hair, wearing their ties and school blazer and being more interested in their general appearance. Only one subject is now compulsory and that is English, everything else is elective. They must study 12units (6 subjects) and they will sit their Preliminary HSC in Year 11.

In Year 12 the boys study 10 units (5 subjects) with English being compulsory and they participate in the ATAR test (Australian Tertiary Assessment Ranking) which is tested Australia wide and will give them their ranking for entry to University. The aim of the school has been to produce an all-rounded boy who has participated in school sports, has tried public speaking, possibly been on the SRC (School Representative Council), worked hard in the academic areas, and actively participated in the many community volunteer/charities that the school is affiliated with such as Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and the Matthew Talbot Hostel.

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Mr Hilliard's animated drawings of your son's life through their 6 years at HBHS have been reproduced for this first edition of the first P & C meeting for 2011. Thank you to Mr Hilliard for extolling upon us his wisdom and understanding of a typical 'Bushie Boy'.

Mr Hilliard presented to the meeting the pewter Diamond Jubilee Anniversary key ring that every boy at school will receive. The school logo is on the front of the key ring and the design on the reverse is highlighted with an owl and the school fig tree which represents wisdom/knowledge and strength/growth and stability/longevity. Olympic sports rim the key ring and these represent the sports played at HBHS. Each key ring is individually numbered. Also, key rings will be available to purchase and all funds go back to the school. The key ring was designed by a past student.

For latest news and photos simply Google 'Homebush Boys High School'. Click on Intranet then click Homebush Boys Website. You can access the P & C Minutes here together with loads of information about the school. Parents would be advised to check out this site and explore the 'Communities' and 'Gallery' links to keep up to date with what goes on at school.

Bush Bulletin: New parents can email their address to the school to apply for an electronic copy of the school bulletin at hbhsbushbulletin@gmail.com.

Attendance: Per attendance book

Apologies: Nil

Correspondence In/Out: Nil

Principal's welcome and report:

Mr Jurd welcomed parents to the meeting and presented his School Council report. He spoke about the school community as being one of diverse backgrounds with a rich mix of cultures that compliment HBHS. Safety, Learning and Respect (SLR) are the values that HBHS adhere to and literacy is the keystone to interpreting all other forms of learning and HBHS prides itself on their high standards of teaching. HBHS are specialists in boys' education and the three principal learning areas are: ACADEMIA, WELFARE and SPORTING EXCELLENCE.

Mr Jurd advised that Mr Tom Pinkey, Careers Advisor, who retired last year will be continuing his duties at HBHS until a suitable replacement is found. Mr Pinkey's experience and expertise is of the highest standard and we are very grateful that he will continue his work at the school in the interim.

A parent asked Mr Jurd how the school raises funds other than holding Trivia or events like these. Mr Jurd said that the school hires out their hall and some classrooms to community groups throughout the year. Not only are there financial benefits but by having groups of people on site most of the time our vandalism and graffiti rates are very low. Mr Jurd thanked Mr Hilliard for his support in opening and closing the school as he has made himself available over many years.

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Ms Caitlin Dwyer, Deputy Principal (Teaching & Learning) spoke to the parents and gave an overview of the teacher/parent relationship at HBHS. Ms Dwyer thanked the P & C for their great work supporting the school and made praise of the volunteers who co-ordinated and worked at the very successful Year 7 Orientation Day last December. She spoke about the Year 7 Resilience and Social Behaviour programme starting later this year to teach boys explicitly about aspects of confidence building and forming friendships, as well as basic skills to help them communicate with each other and teachers.

The new Year 7 Advisor Mr Koff is already working hard with our new intake of boys to build confidence and settle our boys into the year.

Ms Dwyer also advised parents of the DEAR programme (Drop Everything And Read) that encourages boys to read in their homerooms each morning. Boys are reminded to bring a book to school each day.

SMS Text notification: Regularly the school send a text message to parents advising of upcoming events. If you have not received a text message this year please contact the school office to register your mobile number. Text messages are also used to contact parents when their sons have not been marked on the rollcall so it is important that the school can contact you. If your son is sick please contact the school a.s.a.p otherwise the school will send you an SMS text message. You don't need to write an absentee note once you ring the school. Once you text the school your mobile number registers a formal application for being absent.

General Businss:

Simon Ford encouraged parents to continue supporting the P & C at their monthly meetings and to become involved in activities that support the school. Fundraising last year generated \$20,000 of which was presented to Mr Jurd at the end of 2010.

Fiona Murray (Catering Co-ordinator) spoke about the Strathfield Citizenship Ceremonies that take place 4 times a year at the Strathfield Town Hall. HBHS have the contract to cater for these events and rely on donations of finger food from the school parent body. HBHS supply three School Prefects who help serve and cater the food which is a part of their community service to the school. The school is paid for this service. THE FIRST CEREMONY WILL BE ON THURSDAY 10th MARCH 2011. Finger food such as savouries, sushi, biscuits, cakes, fruit or cheese and cracker platters etc can be delivered to the school office on a disposable plate, marked Citizenship Ceremony before 11.00am on the morning of the ceremony. Any queries please contact Fiona on her mobile: 0413 429 415. We require at least 40 families to donate food so please consider helping out. Those parents who committed to help already will be contacted in due course.

Meeting Closed 9.00pm.

The **NEXT MEETING** will be combined with the **AGM** on **Tuesday 15th MARCH 2011 7.30pm**