

## **PADUA PARENT GROUP**

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 25 July 2018  
Tyabb Campus – Staff Room

The Parent Group meeting commenced at 7.30pm with Michael Harrison (College Vice Principal – Mission and Community) welcoming those present and leading us in prayer.

### **1. Review of Lea Waters evening**

- The feedback from the evening was discussed.
- Most feedback indicated that participants enjoyed the evening, and overall very positive feedback.
- Majority commented on the personal nature of the talk and how ‘real’ it was.
- The main idea from the feedback regarding further suggestions was that people were interested in more detailed information of strategies to implement.
- In terms of future topics, many have already been covered, and so this indicated we are on the right track generally and that parents are interested in the topics covered in our Parent Forums.
- The timing was discussed, and it was felt that this time in early May might be better for a Parent Forum as it gives the rest of the year to be able to implement any ideas gained.

### **2. 2019 Parent Information Evening - Initial planning and discussion**

- Given the feedback above, the group decided that a forum structure for next year would be very appropriate and members were asked to begin to think of possible topics and/or speakers to participate.
- If the timing is to be earlier in the year we will need to begin preparation this year. Michael to confirm possible dates.

### **3. Parents and Parishes Evening – Maria Forde Sept 4**

- Michael reported on the development of the parent and parishes reflection / spirituality evening.
- Maria Forde to present “Songs and Stories for the Journey”, which will consider where are we in our own journey, in our parish, and at Padua.
- Location: Chapel at Mornington.
- Padua to do promotional materials.

### **4. Arthurs Seat Challenge Sub-Group report**

- Five parents have formed a sub-group based at Rosebud campus to coordinate the ASC.
- Anna will look after the Padua team and will coordinate with staff on the campuses; four other parents have volunteered to organise the BBQ in two shifts and are looking for donations.
- Date – 11<sup>th</sup> of November
- With students helping we need Working with Children for adults.
- Michael commented that this could be a good example of working with smaller, local and more specific groups in terms of parent engagement.

### **5. Report back from ‘ECA’ Evenings on Year 9&10 Transition 2019**

- There was significant discussion of the two Parent ECA evenings.

- It was noted that there was significant parent presence at each (Rbud – 45, Tyabb – 75) and that parents appreciated the opportunity to have input into decisions being made about transition.
- Two suggestions were highlighted – the possibility of opening the new building in the week before students arrive in January, and the request of emailing map and classroom numbers to students before the beginning of school.

#### **6. Parent ‘Engage, Consult, Advise’ Evening Sept 19**

- It was noted that the ECA evenings are a good way forward in terms of providing opportunities for Parent voice in decisions being made.
- A tentative decision was made to consider social media and mobile phone policies within the college at the ECA at the end of the term.

#### **7. Feedback from parent survey**

- There was consideration of the feedback gained from a survey Sarah sent out to parents on our email lists regarding the work of the Parent Group in general.
- The survey generally confirmed that parents are finding additional meetings over and above their normal family and work routines to be increasingly difficult.
- There was little in the survey to suggest that parents did think the work of the group is irrelevant or not on the right track. Most commented that they would be involved if they could.

#### **8. Discussion of future directions**

- There was agreement that we are on the right track in accepting that the overall Parent organization group will remain fairly small, and that the best way of increasing parent engagement and participation is to continue to look at local opportunities like campus and house involvement, or specific tasks related to special interest groups like the ASC.
- Interesting feedback re asking questions via a survey.

#### **Next Meeting: Thursday 18 October**

*(TBC as this is the same evening as the VCAL final presentations)*