



P & F Meeting #3

Date: 1 March 2021, Time: 5:05pm – 6:05pm

Location: Essington School Meeting Room

ITEM 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

In attendance: Emma Spencer (President), Robyn Marsh (Vice President), Executive Members; Tarun Richards, Melissa Treumer, Jessica Menzies, Steve Hancock, Tina Noutsos

General Members; Danielle Stewart, Brian Kennelly (Principal).

Minute Secretariat: Tarun Richards

Apologies: Max Bowden

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Tarun Richards **Seconded:** Brian Kennelly **CARRIED**

ITEM 3 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence tabled.

ITEM 4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM AGENDA – ACTION ITEMS

#	Action	Outcome
1	Mother's Day Morning Tea	<p>Jess Menzies, Robyn Marsh, Melissa Treumer, Emma Spencer, Tarun Richards and Georgia Usher have volunteered to coordinate the morning tea. This committee will meet to plan the morning tea.</p> <p>Senior Executive to meet and confirm the venue.</p> <p>Jazmin Thompson/David Ambrose to coordinate a musical performance.</p>



		Advertise via flyer for parents, through Bulletin.
2	Dance program	Brian Kennelly will meet with Kayley Palmer about the dance program and performances. Year 6 Jungle Book performance is progressing well.
3	Twilight Fair	Brian Kennelly confirmed Saturday 21 August as the date for the Twilight Fair. Some parents have already put their names forward to coordinate. Justine and Ben Williams donating a jumping castle Spice Garden restaurant have expressed an interest in having a stall. Works to start on drawing together the event
4	Artists in School program	Two community artists with ochre cards have expressed an interest in contributing to design and painting of murals in the school. Brian Kennelly will follow up on the Arts grant for schools. Brian Kennelly commended Max Bowden on the Professional Development session she provided to Junior School teachers recently, with positive feedback from the teachers. Grant material supplied to the principal for funding of project – P+F willing to assist with this.
5	Science Week, STEM grants	Brian Kennelly is coordinating science grants through the school. Note comment noting that NT Government hasn't been receptive to Essington applying for grants in the past.
6	Open meeting with School Board	Points for discussion, committee thought it was appropriate to give advance notice of some questions for the Board prior to meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy, actions over the past year • Skills matrix for Board members • Opportunity for Board to explain their governance responsibilities and training. • Discussion of promoters of good governance • Perception there is a lot of focus on strategic investment in infrastructure, at expense of curriculum and co-curricular activities. • Promote the meeting with the Board to parents.
7	Information evenings for parents – suggested topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition from Junior to Middle School • Transition from Middle to Senior School, subject selection and communicate how programs flow from one school to the next, for both. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make this available online • Cyber safety in Junior school • Social media – high level • Well-being programs at the school • Communicate to parents the programs that are being run.
8	Re-introduction of assemblies	Parents are still asking when assemblies will re-commence. The pause on live assemblies was necessary, but is contributing to disconnection from families with the school.



		<p>Many Darwin schools have returned to live assemblies with some running smaller assemblies on alternating weeks. The Dept of education website doesn't explicitly ban assemblies, but doesn't encourage them either and outlines a series of recommendations to maximise COVID-safety with physical distancing</p> <p>Brian Kennelly advised CDU is still not allowing senior school to run assemblies on campus. His decision not to recommence live assemblies was made with consideration of Dept of Education advice.</p> <p>Assemblies are currently conducted by Zoom. Brian Kennelly looking into recording and sharing assemblies with parents.</p> <p>Heads of School are considering when live assemblies will return with targeted year level parents in attendance. Announcements to follow</p>
9	School Communication	<p>Parents struggling with email overload, missing important emails from school. This has been noted by the Principal and work is in progress to introduce an individualised Parent Portal</p> <p>Add small column from P&F into Bulletin with link to minutes, key dates and decisions, next meeting date.</p> <p>Small calendar of key dates, events, meetings – Max Bowden producing a flyer. Could it be made into a magnet? Or printed out and left at reception for parents to collect and put on the fridge! Printable flyer to be made available for parents to download.</p>

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 20 April 2021

Meeting Closed @ 6.05 pm

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/2021__

This week's meeting was very productive with discussions around:



- Open meeting between parents and The Board (prior to the AGM) – further information below
- Mother's Day Celebrations (Friday 7 May morning tea)
- The Twilight Fair (21 August)

If anyone is interested in being on subcommittees for either mother's day or the Twilight Fair – please register on the school website <https://www.essington.nt.edu.au/parents-and-friends>

There will be a coffee shop planning meeting for the mother's day preparations in the near future.

Please come along and meet our School Board

Due to the success of previous 'Catch-ups with the Principal' we now wish to extend an invitation for you to meet with the School Board.

This is your opportunity, prior to the AGM next month to get to know more about the Board and how it operates.

- **When:** Thursday 25 March @ 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Where:** School Library

To ensure that we are COVID compliant, if you wish to attend please register [HERE](#) by 3pm Monday 22 March.

The School Board look forward to meeting with you.