Minutes
BRIDGIDINE COLLEGE RANDWICK PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Tuesday 9th August 2011 (Room DC5)

Opening
The meeting opened at 7.05pm with a prayer by the President.

Attendance
Rebecca Cocks (President); Sue Suchy (Vice President); Caroline Kane (Treasurer);
Susan Glassick (Secretary); Antoinette McGahan (Deputy Principal); Cathy
Goodieson (Fund raising coordinator); Allison Roberts (Class Representatives Co-
ordinator); Anne Brophy; Eilish O’Meara; Christine Murphy; Patricia Cleary; Patricia
Georgis; Cathy Soden.

Apologies
Kate Edmondson (Principal)

Minutes
The minutes of the Term 2 meeting were confirmed by Allison Roberts and seconded by Eilish O’Meara.

Matters arising
Recycled clothing
A second hand uniform sale is planned for 19th September 2011. Lynne Hamilton has
volunteered to do the sale on the 19th September.
Preloved uniform donations are being sought. The potential for a donation collection
bin similar to the current bin will be explored. How to donate preloved uniform items
will be detailed in the Newsletter.

ACTION – Rebecca (reminder in P&F newsletter and discuss “drop off box"
with Ms McGahan)

Correspondence
Correspondence concerning the coordination of Founders Day and the TAS and
music nights.

Presidents Report
The President detailed the activities of Term 2 – TAS night, Music night and
Founders day. The President highlighted the enthusiastic support from parents who
took the opportunity to come along and support with their help at these events.
The events were very successful –

The music night attracted one of the largest audiences ever. Parent volunteers
enjoyed the opportunity to meet and participate in the school. A magnificent feast
was donated, and $280 raised from the generous donations for the drinks – these
funds will be used to support the music department and contribute to the World
Youth Day Fund.

Founders day was fantastic fun, the volunteer parents found all the equipment
prepared for them to get straight on with frying up and serving many, many sausages
to the hungry girls. The Sizzle was efficient and stress free thanks to the many
Treasurer’s Report
The President is in the process of handing over the Treasurer activities to Caroline Kane. The President provided the report detailing the recent fund raising activities including the $900 raised at the TAS night that will be donated to the Design and Technology Department as a second payment toward the catwalk. In total the P and F have provided $1900 toward the cost of the catwalk which cost $4000. The P & F bank balance after the payment to the D and T Department will be approximately $4000.

This money will be used to support upcoming activities to benefit the school.

Principal’s Report – given by Antoinette McGahan
Information night
Information night has been held for Year 11 and Year 9 students in 2012. Subject choices will be available soon.

TAS night / Music night
These fantastic evenings demonstrated great community spirit.

Founders Day
A huge Success! 12 – 15 parents assisted with the BBQ that worked like clockwork enabling the Teachers to focus on the other activities that required supervision. The pupils have reported that the day was “Brilliant” and “Fabulous”. Prizes of movie tickets are yet to be purchased and awarded, after this it is anticipated that there will be over $2000 raised.

It was disappointing to hear that approximately 150 students missed out on the fun activities.

Parent teacher Interviews
A survey will soon be distributed to teachers and parents to gather opinions on the new format and days for parent teacher interviews.

Feedback given by parents at the meeting included:-
- The hours were not conducive to working parents.
- There was some concern about the number of teachers who were already on leave when the parent/teacher interviews were held. Parents were not really interested in talking to other teachers about their daughter they want to speak to the teacher who is teaching them.
- Positive feedback was given to the online booking facility for interviews.

Year 10 Camp Canberra
The success of the camp was attributed to the new Year 10 Coordinator, and the excellent behavior of the students. All Canberra sights were seen, the only low light was the Principal sustaining an ankle injury. The members empathized with the bad
luck that has befallen the Principal.

Trial HSC The trial HSC is underway for the next 2 weeks and is a stressful time for all involved. All students have been requested to be mindful of the exams and encouraged to keep quiet.

It was raised that the Cullen building could provide a controlled environment which would reduce the distractions that cause broken concentration. In turn this would ensure the students are able to apply themselves to the best of their ability. The Cullen provides the younger pupils with a suitable space for sport and it was felt that it would not be possible to temporarily relocate the sport during the HSC examination times, as it is the only space for single sport periods.

The Principal said that the science teachers & TAS teachers don’t have their classrooms taken from them for over 6 weeks of the year.

Off site options for the HSC exams were raised and as yet have not have not been considered as there has not been a problem with the facilities at Brigidine.

The discussion finished with the deputy advising that at this stage there would be no movement from Synan Hall for the 2011 HSC examinations.

Laptop computers
Waiting to hear from the CEO to determine if 2 or 4 year leases will be required for Year 7.

Year 7 enrolments
Enrolment Interviews for Year 7 2012 are completed. One hundred and sixty eight students have been offered places.

Concerns about the number of parents who say yes to their position at the school for 2012 and then don’t show up was discussed. Also the impact this has on funding for the entire school as funding is based on numbers. The Deputy Principal advised that there is a census done the previous year that helps the CEO work out funding. It was also raised if the enrolment fee could be raised as a deterrent to shopping around. The meeting was advised that guidelines for enrolments fees are given by the CEO and cannot be too high.

School Certificate abolished
The last school certificate will be sat at the end of 2011. There is agreement that there is a need for assessment or credentialing for students who are not able to remain at school. Currently there are no firm proposals for alternative although there are rumors of changing the NAPLAN to Years 4, 6, 8, and 10. If this is adopted it would be helpful in planning and developing school services.

First Class Database
The school has purchased a database that will monitor attendance with ease.

Teachers will attend in-service education in the use of the database and will enter information that can be collated into individual, year or whole of school reports on attendance and late arrivals.

The importance of roll calls was raised in relation to fire and bomb threats. Currently a role call is taken three times a day, and all teachers are encouraged to take a role call for every class.

The school has reduced its late arrivals from 60% to 20-30% by restructuring the periods and moving the homeroom session to after period 2. The goal is 1-5%.

The database will be able to issue a SMS text message to parents to advise of absence or lateness, and SMS responses from parents will be recorded by the
databases.

The new system will be up and running in 2012.

**Music evening – December 2011**
Alan McFadden and Robyn of the music department are keen to organize a performance for December again this year. The P and F were invited to advise on the preference for Friday or Saturday evening and the provision of a sausage sizzle.

It was felt that a Friday would be best attended, and the 2**nd** December is tentatively booked. There was a preference for “Bring a Plate” donation as this was such a success at the last music evening, it was also remembered a previous sausage sizzle on a Saturday music event was unsuccessful.

There were reports that at the previous music night some members of the audience were playing electronic games or chatting through the performance. The performances are a result of commitment and dedication of the students and staff and it was suggested that there be an announcement at the commencement of the next performance requesting all gaming equipment and mobile phones to be turned off, and all conversations to be held over for the interval.

**ACTION:** Anne Brophy talk to Robyn to explore the involvement of P&F in the evening and give feedback to Rebecca Cocks

**General Business**

**Year 12 Graduation**
The Year 12 formal was held last term, this is held before the end of the year to assist the students to focus on the examinations. There is an informal graduation day – Tuesday of the last week of term 3, and a formal graduation day on Wednesday comprising of an Assembly with awards, Mass and then supper (Cocktail party).

Students wear full uniform throughout all of these activities.

Information was mailed out a week ago to all Year 12 parents.
It was also asked if Brigidine would ever consider having the Year 12 mass, full school assembly & formal, attended by students and parents on the last day of Term 3. Brigidine would be about the only school in the Eastern Suburbs that has the formal at the end of Term 2. The formal would still be over before the HSC commences.

**Dance – Saturday 3**nd** September**
OLSH is extending invitations to a dance to celebrate the end of their 125**th** year (September 3**nd** 2011). The **fabulous John Field Band** will be providing music. Tickets are $50pp (includes dinner) are available from OLSH presbytery, or after mass on Sundays.

**Art Show – Wednesday 31**st** August**
Traditionally Year 12 parents coordinate this event. This year Cathy is coordinating the Year 12 parents and organizing the raffle. Donations for the raffle will be sourced.

**Meeting closure**
Meeting closed 8.10pm

**Next Meeting**
October 25**th** AGM