

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting
Thursday, 5th October 2015, 1:30pm
TIS – Secondary Library
Agenda

Present

Howard Stribbell	Christie Kelso	Connie Johnson
David Spreadbury	Diane O'Keeffe	Waynie Hsie
Mary-Anne Jasinski	Phuong Ng	Caroline Sauvant
Kat Scott	Ester Morello	Judith Cunningham
Sarah Luvisutto	Louise Kewley	Kath Rose

Apologies: Peta Houghton, Julie Kirkman, Andrea Dryburgh, Bec Walker

Minutes of last meeting (6th October)

Distributed on-line. Corrections noted and accepted as correct.

Welcome

Head of Schools' Report (Howard Stribbell) – See attached

- In regards to the case of the burglary this past weekend, it was brought to everyone's attention that there have been a few cases of unauthorised people accessing or trying to access campus - some looking for the hospital, some wandering the areas, and some strangers trying to take photos of the Pre-K children. Mr Stribbell assured the group that TIS and security will keep a very close eye on this issue.
- The first Helper Appreciation Tea will be held on November 17. Invitations will go out on Friday and FB posts and posters will follow as well. Mr Stribbell asked for feedback from parents. It was asked if it was generally clear to everyone, that it was for the family helpers. The student teachers organising this event will ensure that this will be clearly indicated on the invitations. With this tea, TIS is underlining to students, the appreciation families have for their helpers, how to treat and respect them and to show gratitude and thanks on this special occasion.
- Feedback was requested from the group in regards to the new school communications sub committee, and the efforts already put in place. One of the biggest issues has been consistent and timely communication of class activities/events to parents. (ie: 4-5 days notice of class party requiring food or preparation).
- It was asked if any candidates have been selected to replace Mr Spreadbury. Mr Stribbell stated that six candidates are in the process of being interviewed at this point and are all at different stages of the process.

Principal's Reports

Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- Elementary staff are currently very busy with report cards. They will be reviewed and edited next week and ready to be distributed on November 20.
- Nell Phoenix, a story-teller/puppeteer is booked in on November 10 and 11 for grades 1-6. He is from the UK.
- Clubs end Friday, November 13th for K-G6 and start up again in January.
- Division 1 & 2 Assemblies will be held on November 18 and 19.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on November 26 from 3:30-8pm and November 27

from 8:30-12.

- The focus in elementary is currently on assessment and reporting for the teachers, as part of the ongoing professional development. Example: Taking a writing sample from every grade (1-6) and reviewing in grade teams the rubrics that was used to score the writing sample and discussing how the samples would be personally scored, whether the scoring scheme is appropriate etc. The purpose of such an exercise is to solidify a common understanding of the evaluation process in grade teams, where several teachers might be new to the school or new to Macau.
- Another initiative that's in the beginning phase is the development of digital portfolios for all students. This is a tool that can be used by teachers and students to gather ongoing information about what and how the students are learning, and that they can follow through the grades to track their progress and identify learning strengths and weaknesses. This doesn't replace a report card but provides a way to gather information and encourages students to track and measure their own results and achievements.

Secondary (David Spreadbury)

- At secondary level the format is slightly different for parent/teacher meetings. It is a drop-in format in the evenings where parents can stop by different classes/teachers for short meetings.
- The Grades 7-12 drama team is currently working on their latest production called "Little Shop of Horrors". This will run November 19-21.
- Update on the kiosk: Student council was very grateful to TISPA for helping them fund this project and with those funds students got wiring done and bought some appliances. They are in the process of getting the kiosk up and running and will soon do trials and testing. The proposed location is in the MPR on the opposite side of the sound system.
- 14 students left for Xiamen, China on a trip with United Nations, which is a great experience for them.
- SAT testing will be conducted on Saturday, alongside Community Day.
- High school students have been asked to design and create a website for the experience week trips. They have done a great job and have itineraries and lots of other information posted on the site. There are 14 proposed trips. 82% of students are registered and the goal is 90%. Destinations are Japan, Russia, Bali, Jordan, Sport camp and Dance camp in Macau. Grade 7: Vietnam, G8: Chiang Mai, G9: Japan
Brochures will be sent home to middle school students with permission forms and invoices for the deposit.

It was asked who chooses the destinations for the experience week trips. Mr Spreadbury mentioned that students, teachers and curriculum tie-in (historical/cultural, community outreach, and increased globalisation) are all a factors in choosing the trips.

Some comments/complaints that have been heard from parents were related to the cost of some of the trips (and built-in teacher costs) and some of the destinations are places that families would consider visiting on a holiday together. Mr Spreadbury noted that on school trips, experiences and activities are very different from personal holidays, as schools and groups have access to experiences that are not available to the public. As a result, these trips tend to be a bit more expensive as well. There are a wide range of choices in pricing and destinations. Other issues that Mr Spreadbury has addressed with parents are related to safety and security and TIS is working with International SOS, a leading medical and travel security assistance company. Mr Stribbell and Mr Spreadbury gave some examples of things that students have previously done on school trips, including community outreach and social justice

components, local school visits and fundraising for schools, painting fences, coral reef courses, etc. Mr Spreadbury also noted that the school doesn't want students to miss out on a school trip due to a financial problem. TIS has previously offered to work with families who have trouble paying for a trip in form of special discounts.

- Remembrance Day next week. TIS will have a short moment of silence at 11am.

Treasurer's Report

Pop-corn on dress down day raised \$4,720 MOP - a new record!

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

- **Walkathon** This event was a great success. The children put a great effort into running many laps and the weather/air quality conditions were favourable. It was mentioned that the Kindergarten classes had slightly tougher conditions as it got sunnier and hotter towards the end of the morning and perhaps, they should be scheduled first thing in the morning next year, with the G 1-6 following straight afterwards.

Upcoming events:

- **Community Day (November 7th) - Family Fun Day**
TISPA to provide BBQ, Popcorn, Drinks and Stalls. Expecting this event to be extra busy as the Macau Bats are also playing at TIS that morning after AFL, as well as art classes and SATs.
- **Christmas Wonderland**
Raffle, Prizes, Lucky Dips etc. Some fabulous prizes have already come in and a few vendor tables have been booked.
Kat Scott asked if TISPA could ask student council to help with selling raffle tickets for this event. Mr Spreadbury noted that the morning session would definitely be an option for them to help out and possibly also at lunch time. Kat will follow up via email.
To be discussed in further detail at a separate events meeting.
- **Other upcoming Events**

General Business

- School photos are coming up and will be held in the Secondary Library and on the ground floor outside. Kat will send out a form shortly for all volunteers to complete. Sibling/family photos are not currently on the schedule but Mr Stribbell will mention this to the photographer to see if another session can be organised after school.

Confirm date for next meeting Tuesday, December 1st at 1:30 pm in the Secondary Library.