

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, 5th December 2017, 1:30pm
TIS Conference Room

Present

Mary-Anne Jasinski	Nick Chignall	Abby Barrett	Christina Leong
Sarah Luvisutto	Liz Chiu	Santha Radali	
Chris Coates	Nicole Hammer	Chris Ho	

Apologies: Howard Stribbell, Amanda Kiat, Connie Johnson,

Minutes of last meeting (14th November)

Distributed on-line. No corrections noted. Accepted as correct.

Welcome

Guest Presentation for Parent Effectiveness Training

Ms. Jasinski introduced Mr. Raymond and Ms. Odette from Parent Effectiveness Training 'P.E.T.'

Mr. Raymond and Ms. Odette provided an overview of P.E.T. P.E.T. is a world leading parent-child communication skills training workshop. PET was designed by award-winning psychologist, 3 times Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. Thomas Gordon back in 1962. The workshop is available in 50 countries around the world and benefiting millions of parents. P.E.T offers proven, practical skills to teach parents how to communicate more effectively with their children, and offer step-by-step advice to resolving family conflicts so everyone wins.

P.E.T. is now coming to Macau and being supported by D.S.E.J. In some cases D.S.E.J will fund the program for parents.

Objectives:

- A 24 hours program where concepts and skills will be taught via role play, exercises, case studies and practice skills at home in between learning sessions.

Course Outlines:

- Listen with Understanding to help their children express thoughts and feelings, and resolve their own problems.
- Communicate Honestly to express their wants and needs and deal with unacceptable behaviour.
- Prevent Problems Proactively so that families are happier and stronger.
- Solve Problems Fairly so needs of both parents and child are met.
- Share Values Respectively to increase understanding and acceptance.

Target Audience:

- Parents / Educators, or anyone interested in enhancing their parent-child communication skills.

P.E.T. is also offering in-house training for schools, tailor-made with respect to your choices of topics, workshops, information sessions, times, place, and group of attendees. Medium of Instruction can be English, Mandarin, Cantonese and various others upon request.

Mr. Coates advised that at the previous school he worked with in Hong Kong the school had Parent Workshops which were called "Coffee Mornings." These sessions were well received and very positive feedback from the parent community. If the funding is available from D.S.E.J. and the school could facilitate sessions and use these to support the school community, it would be fantastic for the school.

Ms. Jasinski thanked Mr. Raymond and Ms. Odette for their presentation on P.E.T. Ms. Odette gave a P.E.T. book and other reading material for the school.

Head of Schools' Report (Howard Stribbell) - Presented by Mary-Anne Jasinski

- Please notice the new security fence that has been completed across the front area of the basketball court and around down the side. Furthering the security of the campus. Now the only entry/exit point for the school is where the security officers are.

Principal's Report Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- Back from the Grade 5 trip to Zhaoging. A huge success. The trips are so important for the experiences the students share, talk about. It bonds them as a collective group more than 3 months at school could ever do. The Dragon Fly Program is very much focussed on emotional, social outcomes. For example not just hiking for two hour. How are you supporting one and other to accomplish these things? How do you support your friends in doing activities they maybe afraid of? So many wonderful moments. TISPA can also support these trips by letting other parents know how meaningful they are.
- Adding more classes next year. Classes from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Also one more Grade 6 class. With the numbers we can accomodate next year we will have 1260 students from PK to Grade 6.
- Started interviewing for next year and posted positions. Getting responses internationally and locally. We will be interviewing over Christmas Holidays in Alberta, Bangkok Hiring Fair and Hong Kong Hiring Fair. This is what Mr. Stribbell, Mr. Coates and Ms. Jasinski will be doing over the next few weeks.
- Wednesday 6th December Hour of Coding 3:30pm to 4:45pm in the MPR. To learn about programming from Grade 3 and up. Parents are also invited to join. Older students will be helping the younger students.
- Saturday 9th December is the Christmas Concerts separately for Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5 & Grade 6. In the Black Box Theatre.
- Wednesday 13th December House Shirt Day.
- Tuesday 19th December is Dress Down Day. Theme is Pyjamas.
- Wednesday 20th December Christmas break starts.

Principal's Report Secondary (Chris Coates)

- Teacher / Parent Interviews numbers were up. It is currently a drop in format. Moving forward we would like to introduce an online process where parents book on line a time with their teacher. 15 minutes intervals with the teacher. If a parent needs to see more than one teacher they can set up the times to suit. This will be better for parents as they will know the teacher will be available at the set time. Better for teachers too. Once they know their schedule they can prepare for it. Hopefully technology in place to implement the new system by April next year.
- Progress Reports with new format received really positive comments. Much more readable and easier to follow.
- Experience Week is well into the planning stages. Experience Week Coordinator and the two Vice Principals have been meeting with individual's parents. There have been information sessions to explain the value of these trips and how their child will benefit from it. We are not at 100 percent participation however we are very close. Offering three local programs that are low cost or no cost. It has been very positive and we are making good progress.
- TIS has a membership with an organisation called International SOS. The school pays a fee every year. They do a Risk Analysis on the Itinerary for trips. For example the situation in Bali with the volcano. Feedback was to look at other options. If you are on excursion and something does happen for example if you needed to evacuate somebody who was injured. International SOS will make all the arrangements for helicopter to fly in and coordinate. If a student is sick, International SOS will tell you which hospital to go too and they will discuss the case with the doctors at the hospital. They also provide training for trip leaders with respect to risk management, first aid. TIS is also running its own first aid for trip supervisors. All teachers have training in that area however there will be one go to person for each trip.
- Walkathon Wednesday February 14th. We want to get the older kids involved. We want to incorporate the House theme into that as well. Students being organised by House and having older students taking on supervisory/leadership roles for the activities on the day. There will be some logistics involved in organising that. Parents can continue to be involved on the day. This is a really good opportunity to put the House system into place and have that connection between the younger and older students. The older students taking leadership. A fun day for everyone.
- Heading into recruiting. Some teachers have given us notice. However as per contract teachers do not formally need to let the school know of their intentions until 5th January. The recruiting process is critical. One way to improve a school is getting the best, most experienced teachers. We like teachers that are qualified in Alberta but we are moving towards hiring teachers that have been at International Schools before.

Kindergarten Coordinator (Nick Chignall)

- Winter Wonderland was Saturday 2 December. Moved the time to start an hour earlier and as a result much busier. Any feedback from parents appreciated and can be used next year.

Treasurer's Report (Connie Johnson) - absent Presented by Nicole Hammer

- The last Pop-corn day raised \$3,394.00 MOP.

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

- Popcorn Dress Down Day

Upcoming events:

- Winter Wonderland - December 7.
- Giving Tree - December 8.
- Popcorn Day - December 19.

General Business

- Ms. Hammer advised that they Giving Tree is going really well. Last tags are on the tree. Will close on Friday 8th December.
- Ms. Hammer had a question from the Cleaning Team. TISPA was told they will need to pay overtime to cleaning staff for the Christmas Wonderland Event. Ms. Jasinski explained that TISAP will not be paying for overtime and cleaning staff will need to speak with Susan.
- Ms. Hammer advised that there had been positive feedback to Club Registration forms being online and it works really well. Only one area with the the Sport Club for example under 12 soccer is still on the list as open. However has already started but still on list. as open.

Confirm date for next meeting: Next General Meeting date confirmed for Tuesday, 16th January 2018 at 1:30 pm.

