

Mount Stromlo High School
Parents and Citizens Association meeting
14 February 2022, 7.15 pm, online

Meeting opened: 6:40 pm
President, Tina Tilley opened the meeting

Attendance:

Tina Tilley	Julie Williams	Tammy Sattler	Kim Smith
Peter Radford	Tim Hawes	Marina Spurgin	Patrice Higgins
Patrice Higgins	Jaron Bailey	Bronwyn Madge	Donna Campbell
Mason Rhoades	Megan Chandra	Reshmi Lahiri	Rachael McCann
Vanessa James	Josphine Ponsford		

Acceptance of previous minutes:

Tina moved that the minutes of General Meeting, October 18, 2021 be accepted, seconded by Julie, minutes accepted.

CambridgeGo Presentation

By Rod Grieves, maths executive teacher

The online version is much cheaper and more accessible. There are enough textbooks for 1 between 2 in class, they are \$70 each, and there are a small amount 'extra' that can go home if students need (about 10 from short term loan.)

Students can access CambridgeGo on chromebook or laptop, with student ID, and student password 'cambridge 123' (they can change it themselves)

Less distraction with the PDF offline textbook.

Rod talked through the interactive text book. There is the ability for teachers to message students in this form (and vice versa) but prefer to use google classroom, as it would get too confusing for all. There are shortcuts to worksheets, subjects and videos. Also walk thru demos, and quizzes which are good for revision.

It is just like a textbook, in that it will give you the answer, including workings, so easy to cheat. There is also the 'scorcher' quiz, which has 10 Q's and you are timed answering them. Similar to athletics 1 minute races. Directed tasks can be set for each student, with feedback going back to the teacher on how the student is going. Pages can be bookmarked, to make revision easier. Maths teachers have noticed that the students prefer the physical text book in class.

Q from parent- difference between Mathspace and Cambridge? Mathspace is used for practice in class, as students can only get the Q right by working it out. Cambridge, they can write anything in, and check for the right answer, and enter it, and get it correct.

Q from parent- how are bright students challenged? In the textbook are the learning

intentions for each unit, with standard Q's that must be answered for the 'C' average student grade. More challenging Q's are clearly labelled for those students that would like a challenge. In class, students form small groups and specific students work on certain tasks i.e. extension or revision. There are also extra curricular challenges- NSW Uni Tests/ Olympiad, or Australian Maths Challenge, spread over 3-4 weeks, can do with a friend. See Scope for further info. Cambridge is also good if student is isolating, or in case of general lockdown. Maths teachers offer catch up lessons at Break One on Thursdays, where students can get help with classwork, if they miss a lesson or are stuck on a particular concept.

Principal's report

In 2021, MSHS had 807 students. This year there are 879.

Only 175 Y10's left last year, we have 237 Y7's so far, with a similar # of Y8's. Good problem to have - popular school. But big cohort can mean difficulty bonding them, are hoping for Camp later in year, and the fact that all years are segregated is helping them meet each other. Have already noticed that friendship groups are crossing primary school boundaries. The start of the year has been calm and measured so far. Teachers are working hard to build the cohort within covid restrictions.

Futsal Court- has taken 5y to finish- has been levelled, turf, sprinkler system installed and needs permanent goalposts- will be ready for use by W5, for PE and breaks.

Kitchen Update- Currently original state from 1974. MSHS has put money in, and directorate will help with a donation. Architect has drawn plans, we are now back at the point where we were in T3W4 2021, when everything stopped due to covid. There will be a 'home' kitchen for Y7 +8 to use, and an industrial kitchen, for Y9+10 to use to get their hospitality certificate I and II. We currently have to take the students for certain parts to CIT, this would make it all in house. One kitchen will be refurbished at a time, this will mean offering less cooking classes, but will work better. Hoping to start soon.

Mobile Phone Policy- Several parents voiced their appreciation of the communication around this policy, and the policy itself. Phones cause a lot of distraction- both learning and social. With feedback from whole community, they have begun consistent and explicit instructions for both staff and students. Apparently, staff are as bad as students at enforcing/adhering to policy previously. Seems to be going ok so far. Still have phone at breaks as too hard to police, also at some point students need to learn self-awareness skills. Students seem happy with new blanket approach- home and school are saying the same things.

Writing is a big focus this year. MSHS had already identified this, before covid, unable to enact due to covid, but Naplan has also highlighted it. All schools in ACT, apparently. All classes will be encouraging handwriting, as physically writing things helps understand it. (Bronwyn noted that 2 of the English faculty had been at the board meeting before the P&C meeting- there are tracking and engagement values across the school for writing- teachers have positive energy for it. There should be noticeable results by year end)

Teachers are grateful to be back- far easier to teach face to face.

RATs- very glad to be handing to students. Thanked all parents for patience and for turning up to collect them. Around 600 parents turned up to collect.

Covid letters- Any symptoms stay home. Cohorting and mask wearing are important as this enables the school to stay open when there is a positive case- masks will be here a

while longer.

School satisfaction survey results are usually out by now, expected in March this year.

Treasurers report

Statements attached

Board report

Bronwyn was away the Board are currently working on the budget

President's report

Tina thanked all volunteers for helping with mangos and at uniform sale last year.

Considering some dates for uniform sale this term- hoping parent teacher evening goes ahead, will run Uniform sale then. If not, same rules as T4 will apply.

AGM- W8 21/03/22- all roles up for nomination.

Teachers to talk at future P&C meetings- Tina asked Peter if he could provide a schedule. Pre-approval for expenditure- Accepted by Bronwyn Madge, 2nded by Tina Tilley.

Election bbq- P&C or Badgers.

Jaron commented that tonight had been badly organised, with no advertising - there was general agreement. Peter promised to do better for W8

Next meeting W8- 21 March at 7.15pm Meeting closed 8pm

Next Meeting

Annual general meeting, March 21

Tina thanked everyone for coming and wound up the meeting.

Meeting closed: 8:58pm