

# PTG & Heads of School Meeting Minutes

30th October, 2018



*Attendees: Matthew Mills (Head of School), Andrew Gordon (Business Director), Michael Smith (Secondary Principal), Helen Thew (Cross Campus Principal), Lorna Conroy (Assistant Principal Secondary School, Student Welfare), Jason Cooper (Primary School Principal), Cheryl Rego (Development, Alumni and Marketing Manager), Rachel Jones (Head of Admissions), Melissa Golden (PTG Chair), Fiona Bertoli (PTG Secretary), Chavapas Ongmahutmongkol (Khun Joe) (PTG Thai Liason), Marielle Eurlings (PTG Secondary Parent Rep), Lyke Schouten (PTG Primary Parent Rep), Aki Roughley (PTG Cross Campus Rep), Janine Minchin (PTG Tigershop Rep), Maayen Chorev (PTG Communications Rep).*

*Apologies: Vik Bhatnagar (PTG ViceChair), Carol Battram (Assistant Principal, Primary School, Student Welfare).*

## **PTG Update**

### **PTG Room Renovation**

Renovations going ahead. Meeting space will be created and give huge benefits to many different parent groups wishing to use the space for private meetings. Furniture will be re-arranged in the remaining space to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. School will fund the renovations. Thank you.

### **PTG Big Night Out Review**

Feedback from the wider community was that parents thoroughly enjoyed the evening event, and were happy to have an event that was not sit-down but mixed with great food and beverages. People loved the location, especially with the upcoming closure of the British Embassy. All in all the event created great community spirit and positive energy towards PTG and school.

### **Financial Report**

The PTG started the year with 1.5 million baht in the bank, after AGM meeting in June. After 2 months of school the Tiger Shop has already generated around 400,000 baht. PTG events have already started happening with the annual newcomer coffee morning being the first event followed by year group coffee mornings later this term and the PTG Big Night Out. Bigger outlays have been spent on updating the Tiger Shop with more products which will be recouped over the course of the year.

Primary CAT clubs requests for money need to be submitted before Christmas and Secondary CAT clubs requests after Christmas.

### **Primary Update**

Year group coffee mornings have started this week, with Year 5 on 29<sup>th</sup> October, Year 6 on the 30<sup>th</sup> October and Year 1 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Other year groups plan to meet before the Christmas holiday.

### **Secondary Update**

There has been some feedback regarding the host Thanyapura as a host for the FO-BISIA Games. Thanyapura will host the event for 3 years as a trial. Cindy Adair has already met with Tania Donaghue and touched on a few issues.

#### **Action:**

- Matt Mills will raise some issues at his next meeting and provide general feedback about the venue and organisation.
- PTG to encourage feedback and include Cindy Adair in emails.

### **Thai Update**

Thai costume sales will be held from November 7-9<sup>th</sup> outside the Primary Library in preparation for International Day on 21<sup>st</sup> November and Loy Kratong on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **Tiger Shop Update**

Some of the Tiger Shop merchandise will be moving to the school shop in the next couple of weeks once renovations in the School Shop are finished.

### **Cross Campus Update**

No update but PTG Cross-campus rep, Aki Roughley, will follow-up after International Day with Helen Thew.

## Communications Update

PTG Communications Rep, Maayan Chorev, is currently working on International Day.

FaceBook page adverts are being posted about the Yoga and Zumba classes. Yoga is now running twice a week due to demand and the ECA department have been very supportive in allowing the PTG to use the space. We hope to start a running club soon due to a parent come forward who is now a certified running club coach.

**Action:** Running Club details to be finalized and advertised.

## International Day Update

PTG International Day Coordinator, Michela Pianesi, is currently hosting the Breast Cancer Awareness Coffee Morning in collaboration with SILC but has been active with the new International Day sub-committee. We greatly appreciate her efforts along with those parents who have stepped up to take on the roles of parade, culture show and food tasting coordinators.

- The parade will follow the same route as last year and we are currently toying with how to manage the MCs so that the parade moves quickly and on-time. The idea is to make it fun with a good vibe and minimize the parent photo session near the sports hall entrance.
- For the cultural show, we currently have 8 countries performing and we have asked them to make short performances of 2 ½ minutes long. We have a rehearsal coming up and will time the music and cut it if necessary. Blanche from Y12 will be the MC. The finish time is 9.10am for the parade and cultural show combined.
- There are currently 25 countries who have tables at the food tasting, with a possibility of 1 more. Location will be Sports Hall 3.

## School Updates

### Marketing

- The Ploenchit Fair is being held at the British Embassy this year on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Only 2000 people will be allowed in to the Embassy at the same time and photo ID is necessary. All proceeds will go to the British Chamber of Commerce charities. Tickets can be purchased from the British Chamber of Commerce ahead of time. Bangkok Patana will have a stall at the fair.

- Alumni sports day was a fun day. Alumni from NIST, ISB, RISB and Patana played against each other in a variety of sports. Great show of 15 alumni from Patana.
- Action: PTG Reps to spread the word to past Patana parents and get in touch with old parents, doesn't matter if they attended Patana in Bang Na or at another site.

## ECA and Sports

- We are coming to the end of Block 1 ECAs, Phase 2 initial sign-up phase is complete and Sports Trials for Secondary students start from November 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.
- SEASAC Volleyball and Football are happening this weekend, November 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> as well as many BISAC events across the city.
- Block 2 starts on November 12<sup>th</sup> for Primary students and on the 19<sup>th</sup> for Secondary students after their residential trip.
- Thanks go to the Business Team for arranging separate invoices for Block 2 ECAs, rather than being billed for Block 2 and 3 on the same invoice. Parents very appreciative of the separate bills.
- U13 rugby has started this year for the first time. In recent years, U15 was the first year for the sport, but we are trying to start improving basic skills at an early age so that for U15 the boys will be better prepared.
- The Dance Academy has had a soft start in Block 1 and some of the old providers have continued teaching. However, at the end of Block 1, all ECAs will be hosted by dance academy staff. All job opportunities for the Dance academy were shared with previous providers and some of the providers applied. Happily, all the teachers who applied for positions have all secured one.
- There will be 22 dance ECAs available in Block 2 and there will be only one competitive dance ECA group. It is called the Dance Company and students Y5 students upwards will be included. The Dance Academy will not be going selective in 2018. We will be researching dance examinations which will suit the students' needs and requirements and examinations may be available from 2019-20 onwards with jazz and ballet being a good starting point especially for Gifted and Talented (G&T) students who wish to take dance to a more serious level.
- There will be a dance parents meeting, Tanya Spalding will talk through her vision for her program throughout the year. There will be an end of year dance performance for the students who are in the dance ECAs in Block 3 and 4 and this will be split into Primary and Secondary, more details to follow.

**Action:** PTG Comms Rep to put a reminder of FaceBook page of Block 2 dates.

## Admissions Update

New parents can agree to share Contact details on the online admissions form as well via the Parent Gateway. A massive Thank you from the PTG go to Admissions and IT for making this possible.

## Secondary Update

- The curriculum based and specific subject coffee mornings have been well attended.
- Visiting Presenters/ Coaches
  - Ben Baldwin - presented to the Year 10 and Year 12 students and he may return next year. There was a lot of good feedback from the students. Look into a session with adults/parents in the future.
  - Clive Leach - presented and worked with Year 8 and Year 9 students as well as offering a parents' session during 29<sup>th</sup> October -2<sup>nd</sup> November.
- Year 8 and Year 9 parents' conferences are taking place this half term.
- Residential trips leave on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 and Heads of Year are currently finalizing details.
- Dress code has been an issue in Senior Studies. What the students have been wearing has differed from the dress code. Senior delegates were spoken to and their feedback listened to. There is lots of compromise going forward from both the school and senior students, and a new dress code, a softer version of the old one, agreed on. Some points, such as length of skirt (not significantly above the knee, fastened shirts, no tummy buttons showing, more casual shoes allowed (although no trainers). Casual Friday will also be an option for students should they wish to dress wearing their school shirts on a Friday.

## Primary Update

- Primary dresses are now sold out and there will be no dress option any more. This has not been communicated yet. Shorts (or skorts) will be the only option once the skirts sell out. In addition, more girls are wearing the top with the sleeved option.
- PTG will not be giving gifts to the primary children this Christmas. Primary school will be asking parents to send in a book for the students to open on the last day of Term 1. The money that was formerly provided by the PTG could be put toward a

charity. The PTG had not been aware of this request but are very happy to allocate some money to a chosen charity after further discussion with the Primary Head.

- Fleas have been discovered in Nursery, due to a number of cats on campus. The cats (and fleas) have now been removed.

### **Action:**

PTG Primary Rep to work with primary office to see if we can repurpose/ recycle the fabric.

PTG Executive Committee to discuss options with Primary Head and agree on an amount and Charity.

### **Cross-campus Update**

- Brian Taylor will be helping the PTG with Tech Talks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October - 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- Ben Baldwin came in to present to teachers (CPL) and provided lots of info in the classroom and outside.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> November, there will be 100 librarians coming to Patana to discuss library issues.
- The environmental team would like to give a wish list to all the food stalls who will be taking part in International Day. An Environmental Best Practice Certificate will be given to the stall with the most environmentally friendly table and food delivery.
- The environmental team to email their wish list to the PTG international Day food committee to pass on to the respective countries.

### **Head of School Update**

- The school's Head Librarian, Sally, has left and we have put out an advert for new applicants to start in January 2019. Interviews have already begun, with an internal candidate and a Skype call to an external candidate arranged.
- The school are in the midst of recruitment which is a less arduous task this year. Under 10 teachers in Primary and under 10 in secondary are required. In addition, a new college counsellor has been hired.
- The senior studies building will be renovate in Term 2. Will be giving the senior students a larger area to relax in during their social time.

## **Business Update**

Personal information for the ID cards may need to be collected before the end of Term 1. The bank has changed laws concerning the cards because they are top-up cards<sup>7</sup>. Negotiations are ongoing.

Meeting finished at 9.30am

Minutes written by PTG Secretary, Fiona Bertoli