

Bishops Prep and Pre-Prep Parents Association AGM Report – September 2023

Introduction

All Bishops Prep and Pre-Prep parents are members of the Parents Association. The PA committee is elected annually as per the notice and process emailed on the 29 August 2023. This report covers the PA's activities from September 2022 until September 2023. The PA members for this period were Nida Hendrickse (Chair), Karine Young (Secretary), Shanita Sam (Treasurer), Nivedna Singh (Pre-Prep Rep), Fika Madubela (Head of Outreach), Mkhusele Lujabe and Mzo Ndzo.

1. Class Reps

The PA works closely with the class reps to ensure that communication from the school is sent directly to the parent body. Nivedna Singh and Karine Young have been instrumental in this role, often directing school-related issues back to the relevant executive for their immediate attention and action.

Karine Young together with Chris Groom and Karen Dallas worked closely to ensure that there is an improvement in the sport and general communication from the school to the parent body.

A document for class reps that details rules, responsibilities and useful information has been updated and amended and can be handed to class reps at the start of each year.

We are grateful to all the class reps that volunteered in 2022 and 2023 for their invaluable support at school events such as the Bishops Community Carnival, Hamper raffle and tuck-shop.

2. Bishops Community Carnival

The event took place on 3rd March 2023. The entire Bishops community was involved, and the beneficiaries of the event were the Prep PA, College PA, VUSA and IIOFF (ODU).

The Prep PA were responsible for the communication to carnival reps, placement of grade stalls, ticket sales prior to the event, floats on the day of carnival for the various stalls and the entrance.

We all agreed that this event is a good opportunity for the three campuses to integrate. However, having to divide the profits between the four pillars is not optimal. The effort involved in putting this event together is not commensurate with the funds raised.

We recommend that the new committee consider a smaller Prep 'carnival' on Stanmore. This will allow for greater interaction between boys, teachers and parents.

3. Finance and Fundraising

The Bishops **Blue Pages** continues to grow and is proving to be popular amongst the Bishops community. The combined profit from the first three terms of 2023 will ensure that the PA's commitment to fund the Peninsula School Feeding Association servicing Athwood Primary in Hanover Park and St Paul's in Bo-Kaap, will be upheld until December 2023. I would like to thank Shanita Sam for her role in making the Blue pages the success it is today.

We held our last rugby **tuck-shop** on Saturday 5 August 2023. Bronni Darne has taken the tuck-shop to Instagram heights ensuring healthier, fully inclusive options for parents and boys. We have had incredible feedback from our parents and visiting parents. In addition to this, Bronni also went to Langa to up-skill the VUSA parents on running a small tuck-shop at future rugby events.

In an effort to support the Prep school in its encouragement of good manners the chair made the decision to reward boys with lollipops or smarties to boys who show exemplary manners.

Funds from the tuck-shop will go towards the VUSA Christmas party hampers supplying the learners with stationery packs for the 2024 academic year.

We would like to thank the whole Darne family, but in particular Bronni, for their continuous support, efforts and commitment to the tuck-shop.

4. Outreach

The 2022/23 Committee visited *St Paul's Primary School* in Bo-Kaap and *Athwood Primary School* in Hanover Park in September 2022 and February 2023.

4.1 Athwood Primary School:

Fika Madubela and Mzo Ndzo have kept in close contact with Mr Petersen, the headmaster of Athwood. The weekly sandwich and fruit delivery continues from 2022.

The Prep school donated a filing cabinet, intermediate phase textbooks and dictionaries to Athwood. A civvies day was held in November 2022 with all the proceeds donated towards stationery packs for the 300 learners.

Funds from the Bishops Community Carnival will ensure that the weekly sandwich and fruit delivery will continue until the end of the 2023 academic year.

The Grade 7 Bishops learners donated 2nd hand clothing, books and sporting equipment to Athwood. These items were sold by the community at Athwood Primary to raise funds for the school.

4.2 St Paul's Primary School:

The monthly supply of groceries to St Paul's Primary School continues. The committee visited the school in February 2023 to consider various building maintenance projects and a revamp of the library. Lever Arch files and library books were donated to the school and Mrs Mugudlwa, the headmistress, was very appreciative. A group of individuals continue to support St Paul's by reading to their learners once a week.

Mkhusele Lujabe visited St Paul's this term on behalf of the PA. He suggested the new PA look at the library as a shared project with the teaching staff at Bishops.

4.3 VUSA:

The decision from the committee this year was to focus on a more child-centred engagement between the Bishops learners and VUSA learners. In light of this decision the VUSA learners had exclusive access to the carnival from 15:00-16:00. The Grade 9 Bishops boys and VUSA staff engaged and looked after them until the opening of carnival.

In June a group of Grade 4 Bishops boys visited Total Ninja with the VUSA learners. An amazing day of fun was had by all.

Members of the PA and a selection of other moms took part in the VUSA cycle challenge on the 2nd and 3rd of September. The team, The Red Hot Chilli Pedlars, hoped to reach a target of R60 000. With assistance from the moms, families and friends on various platforms the team raised approx R112 000. We are grateful for the generosity of all those who donated towards this worthy cause.

5. Coffee at the Mitre

Zee took over the coffee stand at the Mitre in the third term of 2022. We continue to pay Zee as per the agreement with the College PA. Zee is responsible for the running of the coffee stand and the maintenance of the machines.

Zee's visibility at Pre-Prep sports days, plays, hockey events and rugby events have gained traction, and we encourage the new PA to support her growth at Bishops cultural and sporting events.

6. The Second-Hand Clothing Shop

Julie Breslin and Sasha Riviera have dutifully served the second-hand shop. They have reorganised and revamped the shop, and been innovative in hosting 'pop up' stores at the end of every term at the Pre-Prep. They have decided after a few years together to hand over the baton to new moms.

Julie and Sasha we thank you for your 'service with a smile'.

We welcome Elsabe Hartog and Jessica Van De Ghinste as the new volunteers to take over the duties from Julie and Sasha.

7. The PA Newsletter

The PA introduced a newsletter in November 2022 with the approval of the headmaster, Greg Brown. The aim of the newsletter was to create awareness about the work that the PA undertakes and the goals it achieves. It was well received and included reminders of outreach events, activities and the outcomes of fundraising opportunities. The last edition will be at the end of the third term. Thank you, Karine Young and Cath McGrath. We appreciate your efforts in producing a newsletter we are proud of.

8. Pre-Prep and Prep Assistance

Pre-Prep:

The PA attended the Grade N orientation in 2022 where Mkhusele Lujabe introduced the PA members and spoke about the role and responsibilities of the PA.

We celebrated Valentines Day with a collection of pet food and parents assisted with the covering of library books.

The highly anticipated production of Aladdin was a huge success, and we thank all parents involved with costumes, makeup and prop design. The PA held a tuck shop and sold wine by the glass.

A coffee morning with Nivedna Singh, Sharlene Groom and class reps was held at the end of term 3.

A meaningful and necessary meeting took place with Grade 2 parents, teachers, members of the PA and the Executive around the merits of the '***Gentleman's High Tea***'. Mzo Ndzo reported that the meeting was successful and the outcomes positive.

Bronni Darne on behalf of the PA will assist with providing a small tuck-shop and food trucks at the end of season tag tournament on Friday 15 September 2023.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nivedna Singh for her service and contribution to making the PA's role at Pre-Prep successful and consistent.

Prep:

The main objective of the PA was to strive for improvement and consistency in communication with staff and parents.

Greg Brown, Karen Dallas, Chris Groom and members of the PA met with class reps to address all matters concerning communication. Further to this Karine Young, Karen Dallas, Chris Groom and Nida Hendrickse met with Grade 3 reps to discuss matters specific to Grade 3, how to make the transition for Grade 2 parents easier so they are less anxious when joining Grade 3 and issues around WhatsApp broadcast groups.

Staff participated at the Grade stalls at the carnival.

The Archbishop Tutu Remembrance BCE bench and water feature was completed and the Grade 7 boys of 2022 donated the tree in the centre of the planter.

A small tuck-shop will be held on Saturday 9 September at Lutgensvale field when Bishops hosts VUSA in a soccer Saturday fixture. The PA will host a cash bar and limited tuck-shop at the production of **Lord of the Flies** on 20th, 21st and 22nd September 2023.

9. Meetings with the School Executive

The PA committee meets with the school's executives once per term where we receive updates from the Pre-Prep and Prep. We also report on the PA's activities.

The PA chair is invited to all College Council meetings, events and workshops. The chair reports to council on all PA related activities at the council meeting.

10. Upcoming Events

As most of us are stepping down after the AGM, we will ensure a proper handover to the new PA. All the objectives and responsibilities we set out to achieve have been met and the new PA is free to start anew.

Thank you

Thank you to all parents who participate and give of their time to ensure that we, the PA, carry out our objectives to the best of our ability.

Thank you to Greg, Chris, Karen and the teaching staff for creating a platform where parents can engage with the school in various school activities, raising a platform for us to bring awareness to issues and recommendations for improvement. Thank you to the support staff who with great effort contribute to the learning environment of our boys.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and express my sincere gratitude to 'my' team. Karine, Shanita, Nivy, Fika, Mzo and Mkhuseli. We have had some tough conversations but shared a lot of laughs too!

Nida Hendrickse
Chair
September 2023