

Annual Report



2018/2019

A word from the President and Vice-President

The 2018/2019 academic year saw the Help Us Grow (HUG) Association of St Francis College (the College) continue to play an ever-increasing role in the school community. As ever, we would like to formally thank the many parents, teachers and staff of the College who continue to support us in making our work possible, either through committing time, money or other in-kind resources.

This year we were particularly pleased to host what we hope will become a regular event on the school's calendar – the HUG St Francis Football Camp. Through the dedication of a group of parents, we welcomed Brazilian football stars Caio Ribeiro and Kaká to train a group of 80 youngsters on the important skills and characteristics that go well beyond the football field and that are central to St Francis, including team work, respect, loyalty, friendship and equality.

Following on from last year's success, a group of HUG parents organised the second Work Shadowing Programme for DP1s allowing students to gain critical work experience and helping them think about the kinds of careers they may wish to pursue in the future. We are particularly grateful to the many parents who hosted the DP1s in their offices and clinics.

During the 2017/2018 academic year, we tried to initiate a programme to support new international families, HUG International. However, despite our best efforts this did not generate the interest we had hoped. Therefore, we will seek other opportunities to support new families coming into the school.

Other programmes continue, including Drama, Sports, Workshops and Social. We invite you to read on to find out more.

The HUG Executive Committee continues to meet monthly to oversee the running of the association, and to discuss existing programmes as well as ideas for new programmes.

Our finances continue to be very healthy. This year we have raised a total of R\$ 225,496 and contributed a total of 148,748. We have a cash balance of R\$ 277,773 in our current account.

We hope you enjoy reading and look forward to your participation.



Oliver Hudson
Parent
HUG President



Shirley Hazell
College Principal
HUG Vice President



HUG's finances continued to be administered by parent and executive committee member Denise Coopman. In addition, HUG continues to work with EP Contábil as its accountant.

The 2018/19 accounts and are below (in Brazilian reais). Both were approved by the Annual General Meeting that took place on June 2019.

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HUG Programmes

Alumni event

A new HUG event kicked off this academic year - the school's first alumni event. Over 40 alumni and teachers attended and were treated to delicious food from A Chapa in between friendly sports games organised by the Sports Department. It was a great opportunity for ex-students to come back to the school and meet alumni from other years. Good alumni relationships bring many benefits to both the school and the alumni - so HUG is delighted to support this important initiative. We look forward to hosting many more in the future.



College Plays

As ever, HUG plays a central role in ensuring the success of the College plays. While students and teachers are busy rehearsing, we work to make sure our young actors have an audience to play to! This year we supported ticket sales and also sale of refreshments for three school plays: The Jungle Book, The Government Inspector and The Wizard of Oz.



The money raised from ticket sales is used to offset production expenses (staging, costume hire, light and sound etc), which HUG helps towards.

Sports



HUG hosted its first Football Camp for PYP4-8 children in December 2018. It was organised in cooperation with Caioba Soccer Camp - an initiative of Caio Ribeiro who, together with Kaká, helped train 80 children over the weekend. The day used football to reinforce important skills and characteristics that are valued by the IB curriculum, including team work, respect, loyalty, friendship and equality. HUG was grateful for the many sponsors of the event. (Bradesco, AC Fine Homes, Frevo, Achapa, Trois Petit, Transamerica Resort Comandatuba, Prata Augau, Clé, TT and Bauducco). They made it possible to offer the football camp at such a low cost to parents. In addition, thanks goes to the many parent-helpers who donated food and their time to make the event an even greater success! We hope this becomes an annual event on the school calendar.



College Yearbook

Once again, HUG was happy to be asked by the school to be the financial vehicle by which money for the College Yearbook is collected. This year, HUG took the necessary steps to be able to issue “*nota fiscais*”, which enabled us to raise money from even more sources. Christina Karam worked tirelessly to ensure that a total of R\$36,000 was raised, ensuring that each student received their own copy of this important memento of their school career.



Work Shadowing

For the second year running, a group of dedicated HUG parents organised work shadowing for 43 DP 1 students. The week is crucial to help students understand what a professional working environment is really like and also to help them identify possible career paths. The group of parents involved spent a huge amount of time ensuring that the week went smoothly for all involved - not only for the students, but also for the many companies and professional that were involved in hosting.



Social

In June 2018, the HUG held its second annual social event. We welcomed over 100 parents and staff for an evening of good music (from the teachers' band the Internationals), fine food and drink and excellent company. The event also helped launch the school's new uniform range which parent designer Alexandre Herchcovitch helped develop. A video, which HUG helped produce is available [here](#). The evening encapsulated what HUG is about – bringing the community together.



Workshops

HUG hosted three workshops for parents this year. The first, in September 2018, was with Dr Martha Hubner - an internationally renowned behavioural psychologist – who talked to parents about "Getting your kids more interested in human beings (and less interested in apps and cell phones) -

Why it's important and how to achieve it." We were overwhelmed by the level of interest and were happy that around 100 parents participated in the workshop. Dr Hubner shared tips to help detach our children from the lure of the screen, all based on behaviour psychology theory. In addition, she explained the science behind why too much screen time is problematic in a clear and engaging way that really resonated with those parents that participated.



In November 2018, Dr Stefanie Sachs, a German medical doctor and expert on mindfulness, talked to over 60 parents. She introduced the theory behind this global phenomenon of mindfulness, as well as a number of mindfulness techniques to help us all improve our mental wellbeing.



Usually, we pay our speakers R\$1500. This helps us attract only the best calibre professionals and the money we ask for during these events goes towards this amount. However, in May 2018, Otavio Margonari Russo, a delegado from the Federal Police and head of the Cyber Crimes Repression Group, spoke to parents about cybercrime without charging. Instead, donations were collected at the end of the presentation for Abrigo Reviver. This shelter receives children and adolescents whose basic rights have been violated or threatened and offers them shelter, assistance, protection and health care. R\$ 3,120 was donated.

The presentation alerted parents to the main challenges and hidden dangers our children face when browsing online as well as offering some important tools and techniques to help us protect our children online.



Appreciation

Through the generosity of many parents, we raised R\$ 15,374. This enabled us to offer a turkey, a pork loin, a bottle of sparkling wine and a Bauducco hamper of sweet treats to over 70 maintenance, cleaning, security and kitchen staff. We are especially grateful to the group of parents who assisted in distributing the hampers to each member of staff individually, wishing them happy holidays and thanking them for the work they do for our school and our children.



Charity

July 2018, HUG - using money it raised at the 2017 School Bazaar - donated a used professional saxophone to a former student of the Choro Blue NGO.



A group of familiar HUG faces turned out on a cold December morning to help ensure that all those parents and children who attended the St Francis Bazaar were well fed and watered. We are also grateful to the many parents who donated items to sell, many of which were home made. In addition, a raffle was held with 12 generous prizes including vouchers for clothes and hotels, items of clothing, books and beauty products. The event raised R\$ 5,332 of which 10 per cent goes to the College charities and the remaining towards HUG school projects.



Executive Committee and General Assembly

Elected by the General Assembly, the Executive Committee is the executive and administrative body of HUG and meets monthly to agree initiatives and execute its functions as approved by the HUG General Assembly, which takes place annually around June of each year. As well as the five members of the Executive Committee, the Primary and Secondary heads are also present at the monthly meetings to ensure the school is fully involved with all elements of HUG.

The Executive Committee is composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of five members who are elected for a period of two years. The 2018/2019 Executive Committee was elected in a meeting of the HUG assembly on 5 June 2018 with Oliver Hudson, parent, as President; Shirley Hazell, College Principal as Vice President; and Denise Coopman, Luciana Nascimento Belli and Tereza Machioni, all parents, as members.

For full contact details of all members of the Executive Committee, please see the following page.

Contact Information

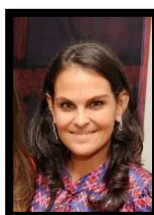
Below are the key members of the HUG team. Please feel free to contact us if you want further information or to support our initiatives:



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