

## Parent Council November 20th, 2023

### Principal's Report

- **Progress reports** and communication of learning sent home today. These reports focus on a student's development of learning skills and work habits from the first day of school to the mid-way point of the first term. It also shows a student's general progress in working toward the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects.
- **Parent meetings:** Educators have been meeting over the past month with families regarding progress. This is an ongoing practice and educators and families are encouraged to have regular and open communication about progress all year.
- **Attendance Matters:** Administrators will continue to share messages home supporting the importance of attendance, being on time, and the intersection with academic and social emotional success of students. Every few weeks admin are sending out messages to reinforce this messaging and to reiterate the importance of consistent attendance for our students. It is important that the school and families work together to support creating these expectations and routines.
- **Safe entry:** once the student lines have come in after bell, any late students need to come to the front door. Younger students are dropped off by parents.
- **Professional Development:** Educators are receiving training on Acadience Training for Primary staff. This is an assessment tool to support literacy instruction. During our November 13th PD Day staff focused on Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction. Staff were digging deeper into instructional practices that address communication and literacy across the curriculum. Our French educators participate in professional development in line with the FSL and FI curriculum through discussions with FSL consultants.
- **Future Professional Development** and learning will be focused on: Social Emotional Learning and Mathematics, and Mental Health/Social Emotional Health across the curriculum. These sessions are collaborations between Educators and Admin based on professional learning that is happening outside of the school day.
- **Outdoor Spaces:** Playground will now be closed for the winter. Please see school day announcement from November 8th to see an explanation regarding why schools make playground equipment off limits. We continue to create a welcoming outdoor learning space. Facilities has planted 3 new trees Two on the north side of the playground, and 1 in front of the school. The trees were chosen to be fast growing so students can be provided shade on the playground. In preparation for the spring, administration is working on gathering proposals and estimates from a variety of vendors for outdoor play equipment. This includes possibilities of an intermediate gaga ball pit as well as fitness equipment. The next steps are to invite parent, student, and staff representation in narrowing design decisions.

- **Music Connections:** December will see the return of the LHSS Music Program to the school to perform for students and staff, and share love and learning of instruments, performance, and music education.
- **Grade information night:** Guidance presented Parent Information Evening outlining the process of Grade 8 to 9. We continue to welcome presentations from Magnet programs throughout the fall. Check the [STORM Centre](#) website for updates and information
- **Dental Screening** for K students December 12
- **Vaccination Program** through the Region of Waterloo is operating -- school day announcements for this
- **Winter Break:** Last day of school before the December break is December 22. Monday January 8th, first day back to school.

### **Council Discussion Points**

- Wondering about **Walking School Bus** initiative. We are a walking community. How do we get parent volunteers to support this initiative?
- Reminder that parents are not to park in the kiss and ride. Bylaw has been to the school giving out tickets for those parking.

### **Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils**

- Second meeting of School Councils: Hosted as a hybrid council meetings, meaning there was both an in person component and a google meeting also. This opens up meetings to all families as those who are unable to venture out to the school can still join the meeting from home. Our school council discussed this as an option for getting more parents involved in the meetings.
- Scott Miller and Michelle Newlands attended the meeting.
- The topic was school safety specifically focused on vaping, cell phone use. The policies were presented
- Also discussed the policy regarding school council purchases which are not to be used to make up for deficits in school funding
- Next meeting's topic is about the process of applying for parent grants

### **Pizza Days**

- We are making 60 cents/slice. October's sales were about 600 and November's sales have increased to 650. Tina does an amazing job of sending out the emails, managing School Day, and contacting the pizza company for ordering. A special appreciation to Tina for all her hard work.

### **Book Fair:**

- Last year were raised \$2000. This still needs to be spent. Now that we have the new language curriculum we are able to set a direction on how to spend that money
- This year sold about \$12000 books and made almost \$2200 in profits.

### Financials

- Typically we raise around \$20 000 a year with fundraising based on the data from last year
- We already have allocated:
  - Grades 1-6- \$500 for mad science
  - Grade 7-\$1000 for team building trip that occurred in the fall
- Based on these estimated projections we bring forth the following requests for the funds:
  - Ace: \$500
  - Jk:\$500
  - SK: \$500
  - STEAM Fair-\$800
  - Inclusivity Fund to be donated to a school in need-\$2000

**\*Motion put forward to approve these requests-motion seconded and approved**

- Other items to be discussed:
  - Playground \$4000 for this year plus \$11000 already approved from last year and if we under spend in any area we would add to the playground
  - N4L: \$2000
  - Grad: \$2000
  - Ski trip for grade 7 and 8-the cost has gone up for the trip and bussing and there was a request for the teachers organizing this for school council to provide extra funding for this trip-Council declined to put extra funds for the trip as the grade 7 and 8 students had funding already provided for a trip and their would like to keep the funds shared equally across the school

Clarification of finances: As a council, you set a goal and work towards a goal and you don't purchase items without the funds present in the account.

### Future Events

- School Council to plan a social event for a Monday in December as a get together. More details to follow.
- **Move-a thon:** Next fundraising February 7th from 9-2:30. Stephanie has already booked the DJ -Matt-for move-a-thon and spring social. Stephanie will send out email to volunteers. They will be, selling items, CYW room will be used for an alternative setting. This is an event where families donate money to the school. The purchase of glow item bling is just fun-not a lot of profit from these items. We will do an early bird specials to help raise more money and as a reminder to families to donate. There will be a sign up. Each class has 30 minutes in the gym. The intermediate classes will do an hour block at the end of the day.
- Storm Squad, our grade 7 and 8 students have organized spirit days. There is one spirt day for each month. Friday Dec 1 is PJ day