

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 3 MAY 2018

Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Glenn Wagner	Alison Hamer
Robin Grazley	Fiona Ely	Sam Hampton
Adrienne White	Cindy Luchka	Peter Ott
Katia Dilkina	Wendy Huibers	

Staff: Ms. Brenna O'Connor, Mme Josée Paris

1. April 2018 Minutes to Approve -- motion to approve by Katia Dilkina, seconded by Cindy Luchka

2. TC 10K Thrifty Foods Family Fun Run -- Katia for Katie

- 9 families participated -- not as many as the fall run, but they had a good time and good weather. Hopefully we can do it again next year and advertise more, relate it to the one in the fall, so people know it's the same thing and will sign up again.

3. Walk & Wheel Wednesdays/Bike to School Week -- Erin

- Update on the Cedar Hill & Derby intersection: Natalie will be writing a letter on the PAC's behalf to express our concerns about the lack of safety around the crosswalks, as it would be useful to have an official communication. Saanich has advised that this intersection is on their priority list, which means issues should be addressed in the next 2 years; however, as Katia noted, we are hoping to get this fast-tracked and bump it up the list.
- Erin asked whether people are interested in doing more promotion around Walk & Wheel Wednesdays. Discussion turned to the possibility of pairing promotion with Bike to School Week, May 28-June 1. Erin will organize promotions/activities around Bike to School Week, but we don't have clear next steps for Walk & Wheel Wednesdays, so if anyone is interested in being involved, please do step up!
- Katia: we could use Bike to School Week as the start of another push to keep Walk & Wheel Wednesdays going to end of year -- perhaps this could be paired with results from the traffic survey and/or anecdotal evidence? Brenna observed that parents are more likely to have noticed changes in traffic patterns than staff, as they are focusing on students. The parents present also noted importance of weather on encouraging alternate forms of transportation. Overall, we feel there may be less congestion in the last two months.
- Katia is planning to produce a report from the survey; we could draw attention to it again next year, as habits are often set in the fall. Brenna agreed that periodic reminders (e.g. a couple of times a year) would be effective, as would a tie-in with Kindergarten orientation (e.g. providing new parents with walking/parking information/maps).

- Katia suggested setting up the geocaches again in the fall for a couple of months. Wendy observed that in October, when people are settling into new routine, could be a good time.
- Erin: not sure if Chantal will be available to do bike decorating again this year -- last year it was very popular. Also popular last year was having a bike mechanic from MEC come after school to do bike repair. The cost was about \$300, which could be paid by PAC or the school (Brenna confirmed this possibility). Erin will reach out to MEC.
- Erin reiterated the call for ideas/energy around Walk & Wheel Wednesdays -- lots of prizes, etc., which could be put to use if anyone has ideas. Brenna suggested we could do the Principal's Walk again too. Adrienne will put a call for volunteers in the newsletter (respond to the main DPAC email).
- The bike blender (which visited in the fall) was also popular -- that was a CRD initiative, and they brought all the supplies. Erin offered to check with Kate Berniaz to see whether they could do it again.

4. Parent Education -- Fiona

- Power Up workshop on sexual health with Kerri Isham is coming up on May 10
- Registration has been slow -- 31 people are currently registered, and the event has been opened to the public in hopes of getting the numbers up. Kerri has posted it on her FB page, and Brenna has sent out a message to our family of schools, and to principals, who are very busy this time of year. According to Kerri, it's not uncommon that people do wait until the day before or day of, or just show up without registering. However, we have space for about 300 people -- unsure why people are not registering. Sam and Fiona both raised the idea that some may think it doesn't apply to them, or is somehow not necessary. Katia and Cindy both noted that it is a busy time of year, and people may just have other commitments -- not necessarily a reflection on content.
- Question from Adrienne: can we invite parents at other schools? Fiona: yes! Katia will send the info to PACs as well as principals, as principals are very busy this time of year, and will also suggest that people can share it on their Facebook pages. Cindy suggested reaching out directly to Braefoot -- Fiona will take this on, as she has contacts there from the Alison Rees workshop. Katia will send out another stand-alone email to class reps, and make it clear that it's open to the public, all parents/caregivers.

5. Parents/Teachers Leaving Doncaster -- Cindy

- Tradition to honour teachers who are leaving Doncaster after more than 2 years, and parents who have been active in the PAC whose children are moving on -- work with librarian to pick out books to be donated to the library, with a plate.
- Cindy has started a list -- please let her know if you can think of parents or teachers who will be moving on.

6. First Aid Course for Grade 5 -- Katia

- We may not have time to organize the course for this year. Alexis has previously organized it through contacts at UVic, but no response from her on this subject so far. Brenna & Josée have not talked with teachers about it, but know that it is appreciated.
- Usually the course is held earlier in the year -- originally it tied in with lunch monitoring. Under the circumstances it might be better to hold it in the fall, although unfortunately that means this year's grade 5s will miss out.
- We will try to organize it for the fall, but will still need to figure out how/what/when -- perhaps just start over? Katia will consult with other PACs -- discussion followed on resource-sharing among PACs.

7. Monk Office Supply fundraiser -- Cindy, Catherine

- Cindy -- Catherine is excited to organize the fundraiser this year, but it is her last year at Doncaster -- Cindy will work alongside her this year and take it on from next year. To get this underway, however, we need school supply lists, but those have not been approved by the district yet. Deadline for Monk's is May 28, and we were hoping to have the info ready to go out at Kindergarten orientation on May 15. Brenna and Josée will do their best to get the lists organized/approved -- Margo is coming back soon. Cindy to check in with them next week.

8. Kindergarten Orientation (May 15) -- Katia

- We definitely want to include information on school supplies, walk/park map & recommendations, so that incoming families will have them.
- Brenna: this year we are doing orientation a little differently -- 2 events (AM/PM), because we have over 70 new Kindergarten students starting in September. We want it to feel more like a welcome event than an information session. There will be stations in the gym & courtyard -- parents will stay with their kids, visit the stations, and stamp a passport.
- Instead of trying to share all the information at orientation, we'll hold an info night for new families -- invitation to PAC to join was accepted. The Kindergarten teachers will be there to talk about readiness, what to expect -- lets families focus on their child at orientation and give them a chance to take in the information later on.
- PAC will have a station at the orientation (Katia/Cindy -- other volunteers?) -- brochures/collect emails -- and be at the info night.
- B will talk to Kindergarten teachers about when to have the info night -- consensus from parents present is beginning of June sometime. Katia: it would be good to invite new families to come to the last PAC mtg of the year in June -- better than September as we're winding down, not asking for volunteer commitments. Josée suggested holding the info night before the June 7 PAC meeting -- support for this idea among those present. Katia and Brenna will discuss details.
- Mme Harrison has suggested inviting the new families to the end of year picnic as well, to help make them feel welcome and more comfortable in the school space. Support was expressed for this idea.

8. End of Year Teacher Appreciation Breakfast -- Katia, Michelle

- Event is usually held on the last Friday after school is done -- Erin did it last year (some concern that this is perhaps not the best day?). Michelle is not able to be here tonight -- she says she does not want to organize it, but is happy to do whatever needs to be done.
- Question from Glenn: had we planned to get a caterer? Josée and Brenna noted that they did this for the teachers' Christmas breakfast -- worked with Cook's Day Off -- good rates, good food, and they even delivered: successful. Hilda has all the details -- Katia will ask Michelle to confer with her. Breakfast will be for about 40 people, and Brenna noted that they did overestimate the amount of food.
- Katia will coordinate with Michelle on organizing; Wendy stated that she could help 8-9 that morning with setup.

9. Bike to School Week -- Erin

- Covered above in discussion of Walk & Wheel Wednesdays.

10. End of Year Picnic -- Katia for Mercedes

- Mercedes is not able to be here tonight, but we are sure she is happy to organize the end of year picnic
- Discussion followed regarding the date of the event and the dance. Consensus was that we will have the picnic instead of the dance, and hold it at 5 pm on June 21 (nice tie-in with National Aboriginal Day and the Solstice).
- Discussion turned to the issue of treats for the picnic/Fun Day: FREEZIES. It was decided to keep freezies for Fun Day, and possibly offer something else for the picnic. Note that freezies will need to be picked up 2 weeks before the event, otherwise they will not be frozen. Previously they were donated by Save-On ... estimate of numbers is 450? Kindergarten students get half.
- Ice cream costs less, takes less room to store -- Wendy will look after arrangements. Cindy suggested old-school popsicles as lactose alternative -- Wendy to source and price. We will need a few extras for new families/siblings. Katia asked Wendy to check in with Mercedes first and make sure she hasn't already looked after this.

11. Back to School BBQ -- Katia, Erin

- Brenna: calendar will be confirmed by next week
- Erin: we gave September 13 as tentative date to Red Barn BBQ -- tentative is fine, as they don't actually have a BBQer right now -- will check in with them next week. It was agreed that September 20 might actually be a better date for Meet the Teacher, so will shift the BBQ date.
- Wendy: Gr 5 BBQ -- has been in touch with another parent who has done it before -- \$5-8/student for food costs
- Mr. Thomas will come back -- in the past he has had food donated and PAC has purchased some things -- Wendy to talk with Brenna about arrangements.
- Students get a card with photo, can get their friends to sign it -- t-shirts not really worth it.
- Also, hot lunch: Wendy shared that Leanne Zolis has volunteered to take it on -- Joy-Marie will be here next year and will help too. A couple of parents have said they would like to help, but

unfortunately can't be there on the lunch day. Hopefully some new parents will also be able to step in, and some continuing parents who know the ropes will still be here.

12. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

- Josée: track tryouts were held today for grades 3-5 -- from this, we'll be able to build relay teams, determine who's competing in individual events (100 m, 800 m). The Zone Track Meet is coming up on Monday, May 28 at UVic -- students will bus there and back. Some will qualify for the city finals, to be held Thursday, May 31 at 6 pm. Kids can only compete in one individual event, but everyone can compete in relay. We had a good vibe for tryouts, lots of kids running cross-country too.
- A note on Grade 5 Transition Day: right now we are waiting for confirmation from the middle schools. Our school will go to Cedar Hill, but some students will be attending other middle schools. It is the same transition day, so if your child is not going to Cedar Hill, it is possible to have them join the visit at their future school.
- Jump Rope for Heart will be held Friday, May 25, at 2 pm. The kickoff assembly was held this week -- some paper pledge envelopes, and can also pledge donations online. Everyone goes outside and skips, with music and oranges (Josée confirmed that PAC would be interested in providing oranges).
- Brenna: work on the Garry Oak meadow ("Magic Forest") has begun -- not sure when they will be finished, but soon.
 - Question from Fiona: can it be reopened after tree work is done? Brenna: we might want to do the community cleanup first, as there may be other stuff in there ... Brenna will check in on dates and then we can start organizing -- again, we need to check with our union partners before starting any community volunteer projects.
 - Question from Glenn: now that it will be reopened, has the discussion been had with SD61 about taking over maintenance? Brenna: that commitment was made when we met with David Loveridge, and I took him at his word. However, he will be moving on and there will be a new Director of Facilities. Brenna will connect with new person to let them know what the agreement was, and hold them to it.
 - Peter noted that the winter really is the best time for cleanup, as visibility can be a problem in spring/summer. Erin stated that cleanup will likely need to be a continuous process.
- Brenna: we have been working on revisions to the school's code of conduct -- a dramatic shift to make language clear for children. Sarah Harrison in particular helped work on making this code meaningful for Kindergarteners, and other staff made important contributions as well. We also would like to have parents' feedback.
- Copies were circulated to look over during the meeting; parents liked the clarity of the new version. Sam queried the use of "race," but Brenna pointed out that this term comes direct from Human Rights Code, and our code must reflect that language. Question from Peter: will this go out with parent orientation materials? Brenna: yes -- we will put it out to all families in a

bigger launch too, on the website, agendas, have it displayed. Again, this is the product of very thoughtful discussions.

- Erin and others queried the inclusion of climbing fences and trees as “unsafe behaviour” in the Appendix and previous code ... this may be reconsidered, or the Appendix kept as more of a teachers’ piece than a public one.
- Please pass on any further thoughts!

- Update on the class placement process -- we will be sending a letter home to parents in the near future. A draft copy was offered for immediate feedback if parents wanted to share.

- Finally, some big news: Josée has been appointed principal at Macaulay Elementary! Big congratulations to her, although we are all sad that she will be leaving us. Our new Vice-Principal at Doncaster will be Jana Relf, who is currently at Craigflower Elementary. We will also need to fill Josee’s teaching position, as Jana Relf is English stream.
- A quick discussion of placements for next year followed, all tentative -- staff shifting begins now too -- we are not anticipating a lot of moves, but more info to come.

Next Meeting: Thursday 7 June 2018

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm