

## DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

*Katia Dilkina called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.*

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In attendance:

Katia Dilkina	Nicole Woods	Robin Grazley
Erin Prescott	Cindy Luchka	Jennie Bartosik
Adrienne White	Fiona Ely	Alison Hamer
Katie Ryan	Cyndi Whaley	Colleen Liang
Katie Shaw	Anne Smith	Laura Tighe
Warren Weicker	Tracey Varian	Oona Jean
Jen Grant	Oscar Cruz Pereira	
Joel Friesen	Marika Glickman	Glenn Wagner
Chris Wright	Mary-Lynn Hanson	Karen Dean

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh, Mme Helena Ewald

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1. June 2020 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Erin Prescott, seconded by Nicole Woods

### 2. Intermediate Playground

- Thanks to everyone who made this happen, especially Cindy Luchka, Cyndi Whaley, Katie Ryan, and Cindy Harte! This project was a long time coming ... Katia acknowledged all those who worked on grant applications, design, fundraising, inclusive aspects -- thank you so much, and it is so fun to see kids loving the new playground
- Question from Glenn: how many years were we fundraising for this playground? K: savings began a long time ago, and the primary playground was replaced first. Cindy L confirmed that the primary playground went in Fall 2016 -- fundraising began several years before that, and there have been targeted efforts over those years.
- Katia acknowledged the importance of the BC government PEP grant -- the majority of that grant went to purchase the rubber surface (one of the main requirements of an inclusive playground). The rest of the funds came from PAC fundraising.
- Next major project: covered structure for outdoors -- again, the idea of a shelter on the primary side of the school has been in discussion for a long time, but now with Covid-19/wanting to bring learning outside, there is even more need.

### 3. PAC Events Cancelled This Fall

- Katia provided an outline for new parents of the events (community builders and fundraisers) we would usually hold during the fall, which have been cancelled due to Covid-19:
  - back-to-school BBQ
  - Halloween Dance
  - Doncaster Craft Fair

- Movie Night
- hot lunch

#### 4. Magic Forest Cleanup

- Katia: one of the things we can still enjoy this fall is the “Magic Forest,” the Garry Oak meadow at the edge of the school grounds. It’s a big part of school day and afterschool time -- however, it’s very accessible to the public also, so often there is garbage, etc. This area needs to be cleaned & made safe on a regular basis.
- Erin: in past years, Mercedes and I have helped to organize forest cleanups. Since we are using it more regularly, it would be good to get adults in there regularly to clean up, remove invasive plants. This is a call for volunteers to take that on -- Erin will help coordinate -- every second Monday, for example? Erin can also organize a cleanup on the weekend, supervise another pull of the invasive daphne (done to success last year).
- Nicole: would it make sense to just pick a day as a standing day for cleanup? A general communication could go out to the school re: what we’re doing ... what do we need to do to organize? Erin: someone needs to bring garbage bags, gardening gloves, take responsibility for disposing of any garbage, and identifying invasive species to be removed.
- Katia suggested that we start with a one-time session to get it going.
- Jen Grant volunteered to organize the first cleanup for next month, and will email Katia once she has checked her schedule. Thank you, Jen!
- Oscar reminded us that people should probably bring their own gloves due to Covid. Cindy H noted that the school has a bunch of claw arms to borrow (for picking up garbage).

#### 5. Garden Project

- Erin identified the site of our school garden, the fenced area near the primary playground which now has water available. Abigail Bigam is the teacher sponsor for this project. Over the next few weeks, Abigail will be looking for help to get that area prepared for planting -- interested people who might have time on the weekend to help turn soil, etc. A call will go out through the school -- if families here are interested, let Abigail know, or Erin/Katia.
- Nicole volunteered to help -- if others are interested, please email [dpac.doncaster@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.doncaster@gmail.com)!

#### 6. Card Project

- Katia: this is one of our very few fundraisers this year ... each teacher does an art project with their class. The artwork gets sent to Marcelle at The Card Project in Vancouver, and she produces cards/notebooks/sketchbooks with your child’s art on them, which you can order. They are great for Christmas gifts for family/friends, for kids themselves -- and it’s also a PAC fundraiser.
- However, this will be a quick turnaround, as it’s such a large-scale project. Cindy H: we haven’t asked teachers yet -- what is the due date? Katia: mid-October to send the art. Some discussion followed.
- We are unsure if Alexis, who has previously organized this project, will be able to take it on this year; Christy had volunteered as backup, but is not sure she can take it on either, so if someone else can/will? Cindy L volunteered -- preferably with someone else to learn it as well. Nicole

volunteered to join in as well, but Katia encouraged someone new to come forward also. Please think about it, and let Katia know!

- We agreed to go forward with The Card Project this year. Cindy L will get in touch with Marcelle, then talk with Cindy H. Cindy H: we need a firm due date ASAP. Cindy L: in the past, that date has been 8-9 October -- Marcelle may have been able to extend due to late start this year. Many of the teachers are experienced with this project, and will have samples to share with new teachers.
- Katia confirmed **October 16** as the due date.
- Katia will update Alexis. Thank you, Cindy L and Nicole!

#### 7. Doncaster Wear

- Cindy L will take this on, but again, with someone else. We'd like to get started early enough this year to create a special Grade 5 hoodie -- deadline?? Something is usually done in September/early October.
- Katia: we have some items left over from last year which could be sold, but need to check what sizes/colours; we also need to think about whether we will choose different colours this year. Not having access to the school is a complication.
- Katia called for volunteers to help Cindy L with Doncaster Wear. Marika volunteered to be our liaison with the company (Shenanigans) once again. Tracey also volunteered to help. Thank you, Cindy, Marika and Tracey!

#### 8. PAC Executive Elections: **NEXT MEETING, OCTOBER 6**

- Katia: Due to the pandemic, we made the decision to postpone elections in the spring, so the current executive is over their term. At our next meeting, we'll need to elect this year's executive and fill a few other positions.
- Please plan to attend, as we need quorum for elections!
- Please consider joining the exec -- in addition to President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, we have Members at Large -- not a lot of responsibility, but you have the opportunity to take part in discussions at the exec level, be more informed.
- We also need a Parent Education Coordinator for this year -- many thanks to Fiona, who held this position the last couple of years, for all the great opportunities you organized!
  - This year is odd because we can't gather in large numbers, but we should still be able to create some parent ed opportunities. Katia has been chatting with a parent from Campus View about the way they share parent ed with a number of other schools.
  - The Parent Ed Coordinator researches cost & availability of speakers, makes arrangements ... if you have ideas about a presentation you'd like to have, please let us know!
  - We usually have the White Hatter present on internet safety every two years, and this is the year -- now is a most relevant time, with the rise in online learning. They usually present to parents, and students in Grades 4 & 5.
  - Robin took a preliminary look, and the White Hatter is offering in-person and virtual presentations this year. Thoughts? Cindy H and Tim felt it would be good to have both students and parents hear the material, but noted that everything is different this year.

The struggle is gathering classes/cohorts ... not sure what that would look like. Virtual delivery of the program is a strong possibility, but we would have to see how it would work.

- Robin will email the White Hatter and find out more about how they are structuring programs this year.

## 9. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

### *School Updates:*

- Cindy H: Thanks again for the new playground! We held two opening ceremonies with grade 5s. It's very popular, and the spinny is causing some nausea, kids learning about limits ... but it's all worth it.
- Staffing update:
  - We grew by one division this year -- very full in English, added a 9th division and kept 11 in French -- then one English division became the hybrid class (including some FRIM students), Mr. McCreesh's little schoolhouse -- kudos to Tim for teaching across grades!
  - We are still in the hiring process for the English Grade 4/5 classes -- positions should be filled by the end of the week.
  - We also have a position which includes music/PE/release time (additional prep time to help Tim with hybrid class).
  - There's also a Grade 3 FRIM position that Mme Walker is currently in -- we hope to keep her, but other considerations in the District may change that.
- We can't say enough about how well the kids & staff have adapted -- figuring out the process -- interesting startup, and so good to have kids back in the building and our staff back as well.
- Tim: we have a Pro-D day this Monday (September 28):
  - Staff will be gathering at the school and reviewing health & safety protocols, what worked during the last couple of weeks, in the morning. In the afternoon, staff will be meeting in collaboration groups -- different things to do this year. Outdoor education was already a focus for this year (so prepared!) -- groups will be meeting around outdoor ed, different forms of collaboration.
  - We also have a few students who are learning at home right now, also some going home who are unwell -- we want to be prepared for that. Teachers will be meeting in grade groups to put together packages for those who will be at home for a while.
  - There are also some district-level pro-d offerings, which some staff might choose.
- The CRD bike rack is here, and it has been installed ... but not quite where we want it. Right now about half of it is usable; we will try to get it moved to the back of the school where it will be more accessible.
- Terry Fox Run is coming up on Friday, October 2. Our idea: challenge kids to run all day. Running will be going on outside the school all day long: Grade 5s first for 30 minutes,

then 4s, 3s, and so on. Mme Digeso is organizing -- fundraising will be online, and she will send out a donation email soon.

- Cindy H: Bike to School/Work Week coming up next week -- unfortunately it has to be scaled down this year (no prizes), but we encourage wheeling/walking to school all year round. October 5-7, Grades 3-5 will have the opportunity to participate in CRD bike safety program -- courses, obstacles, etc., which is a nice tie-in with Bike to Work week.
- Meet the Teacher/parent-teacher interviews:
  - Again, we'll be doing things differently this year. We recognize that this is especially tough for our new Kindergarten families, when this year they can't come into the building and see what it's like!
  - We are trying to be creative in showing parents what a typical day might look like. You can expect a video/welcome letter around September 24.
  - The following week, we'll have early dismissal (Sept. 30/Oct. 1) so teachers can connect with families -- mostly Zoom, but also some in person -- more info to come.
- Questions? This will be a busy, full year as usual, but in different formats.
  - Question from Warren: are these meetings usually 7-8? Bedtime ... Katia: it's either bedtime or dinnertime! We are always open to other ideas -- why we changed the day over the last couple of years.
  - Katia: we will meet again in two weeks -- if you want to attend regularly but this time does not work, please let me know, and if there are enough people we can change things.
- Return to agenda -- further discussion of the outdoor area postponed to the next meeting

#### 10. Class Reps

- Robin: sent email directly to parents who were class reps last year, or expressed interest, letting them know about changes and encouraging them to step forward again -- heard back from a few -- please contact your child's teacher directly if you are interested!
- Katia elaborated on the role of class reps in creating community, point of contact for families in each division
- We agreed that PAC exec should have a contact list for this year's reps. Robin has started a list with info for those who responded; will check in with Cindy H to get a list from teachers in a couple of weeks.

#### 11. Other Business

- Katia: Adrienne has raised the issue of whether we need to create a PAC newsletter every month, since so much is covered by Cindy H's weekly update. We agreed to leave the newsletter for this year.

- Thank you, Adrienne, for all your hard work putting the newsletter together over the past few years!
- Cindy H suggested that she, Jennie, and anyone else who is interested should meet as a subcommittee to share ideas re: the outdoor area before the next meeting. Katia, Nicole, Cindy L, and Chris Wright expressed interest. If there are others, please email [dpac.doncaster@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.doncaster@gmail.com)!

**Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 6 October 2020, via Zoom**

*Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm*