

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 4 OCTOBER 2018

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

In attendance:

Erin Prescott	Robin Grazley	Fiona Ely
Marika Glickman	Cindy Luchka	Katia Dilkina
Katie Ryan	Cyndi Whaley	

Staff: Ms. Brenna O'Connor, Mrs. Jana Relf, Mme Helena Ewald

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

2. PAC Social -- Katia

- PAC Social was held on September 13, the second week of school. However, this year's attendance (especially of new parents) was about $\frac{1}{3}$ of last year's.
- We agreed to hold next year's social in the first week again, in the hopes that it will draw new Kindergarten parents especially. Depending on what business we have, the social can be followed by an exec meeting, or we can hold an exec meeting the following Thursday.
- By May or June, we should have somebody (not Katia) committed to organize the PAC social.

3. Class Reps -- Katia

- We now have a rep for every class except one -- Mr. Companion. Reps for grades 4/5 are generally harder to find.
- Brenna noted that staff can now email families directly from the database, which changes things radically (i.e. teachers no longer need to send messages through class reps). However, PAC still needs to get parents' permission to collect and use communication info.
- It would be nice to send Halloween dance info through class reps -- Katia is waiting to hear how many reps have lists complete.
- Ideally, someone else should take on the role of finding class reps for next year. Robin volunteered to take this on; however, Katia requested that we keep this open for now in case another parent might be looking for a way to become involved that doesn't require them to be at the meeting.

4. Back-to-School Picnic -- Katia

- Picnic held in conjunction with Meet the Teacher on September 20. Although the "picnic" was rained out, families collected their food and stayed to eat in the gym, lots of fun had by all. We raised \$844 -- worked out well.
- Again, we need to find someone else to take the lead on this event for next year -- overwhelming to put it all on one person, especially managing the food orders.

- Discussion followed about the best way to improve this event for next year. We agreed that it is worth the effort to offer food, not just for financial gain but also for community building -- families gave positive feedback about having dinner taken care of on a busy night. However, we do need to diversify the volunteering, as food trucks or a BBQ truck may not improve the logistics (volume/speed of service).
- For next year, we need a team/crew of 3 people who are committed to being there for the event -- school-wide emails are not really worth it to call for volunteers, so might be best to organize this in spring as well.
- Jana: have we ever tried putting all the activities on signup? could be physical board or electronic. Positive response to this idea: gives families a visual, lets them check their calendars and can plan around events. It would be best to create a board ASAP for the rest of the year's events and display it somewhere prominent (even at Halloween Dance?).

5. DPAC Ask Letter -- Erin

- Glenn & Katia put this year's letter together, Robin distributed it to teachers' boxes. Approximately \$1600 has been donated in response to the letter already -- thanks!

6. Earthquake Supplies Refresh -- Katia for Natalie

- Thanks to Natalie for purchasing and bringing in this year's earthquake supplies!

7. Monk Office School Supplies Fundraiser -- Cindy

- Overall, it was successful, but some problems, which have now been sorted out. Monk changed their website and gave us no access to adjust things -- problems with lists, seeing the orders, 16 or 18 orders were missing ... however, by mid-September everyone did get their orders.
- We hope they make some changes to the site so we have more control next year.
- No money has come in from them yet, so we are unsure how much money was raised.
- Cindy will take this fundraiser on again next year.

8. First Aid for Grade 5 -- Cindy

- This session was held September 24 with Alert First Aid. Jana noted that the kids were engaged, the instructor was entertaining yet thorough, some kids were very interested and everyone participated, asked good questions. Overall, it was worthwhile.
- Cindy asked for Alert's feedback and they also were pleased with how things went -- we could go with them again next year.

9. Card Project -- Katia for Alexis

- Unfortunately, the Card Project is not going to happen for Christmas due to problems on the company's end -- they are not able to accept any orders until the new year. We could possibly do it for Mother's Day; it might not be as successful in terms of orders, but agreed that it was worth trying. Helena pointed out that it may work better in spring anyway.

10. Magic Forest Cleanup -- Erin (and Mercedes)

- Just under 30 adults, 30 kids too -- great turnout
- Mercedes has pictures
- We did not find all that much garbage, nothing really suspect in there.
- Mercedes wants to know when the next cleanup will be -- maybe in October? Fiona suggested that classes, grade by grade, could get involved with clearing invasive species. Robin remembered that Natalie also mentioned the possibility of asking her grade 9s to help.
- We might need to consult with experts about the best ways/times to remove ivy, blackberry, etc. Melissa is following up with Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) Green Spots program re: instructions as well.
- Two dates were proposed for the next cleanup: October 20 or November 3.

11. Magic Forest Reopening & Mindfulness of Indigenous Ecosystems -- Brenna

- Earlier in the year, we had discussed the possibility of a reopening ceremony. Sam had offered to contact Cheryl Bryce about speaking at the ceremony, sharing indigenous knowledge about Garry Oak ecosystems and their importance. Sam did reach out, but cautioned that Cheryl Bryce may be too busy.
- Erin also reached out to Aiki to see if she had additional suggestions, but Aiki may not have been able to follow up.
- We agreed that for now, we will focus on thank yous to the McNally Foundation rather than an event -- Brenna will ask teachers for cards from kids, which we could send with Mercedes's pictures.

12. Parent Education -- Fiona

- White Hatter:
 - This year, we are set to host the White Hatter (Darren/Brandon Laur) presentation on internet safety. This presentation is usually booked every other year; there is a 2 hr evening session for parents (\$550), and 90-minute presentation for grade 4 & 5(\$350) -- if held the same day, \$100 discount total (\$50 per session), for a total of \$800+tax.
 - The high price means we want to get parents to attend -- Fiona & Katia suggested we create an EventBrite registration and open it up to the public if not enough Doncaster parents register.
 - We were going to apply for the \$250 grant from the District -- deadline is October 26.
 - Fiona: did we want to join our grant application with Braefoot again this year? That would put \$500 toward the speaker, but is a little complicated -- lots of correspondence/coordination. Katia suggested we email them and see if they are interested. The turnout is usually very good for Darren Laur -- Cindy noted that he used to advertise where he'd be, but may not now because it got too full. Since he often tailors the parents' talk to what the students will hear, it may not be as relevant for Braefoot families; however, good info to have anyway. Erin stated that we did budget for this presentation, so the funding is available regardless of the grant.
 - Dates: consensus was that Tuesday, February 5th would be best for us. Fiona will let them know, and will get in touch with Braefoot.

- Power Up! sexual health education with Kerri Isham:
 - Brenna: this opportunity has been brought to the curriculum committee -- there is a desire to know more from the staff, since Kerri is out of district & unknown to them, before committing to bringing in the program. In particular, there are some questions about the grade 2 learning.
 - Brenna raised the possibility of having Kerri Skype in for a Lunch & Learn pro-d session with our teachers. Katie pointed out that Sarah Harrison attended the session in May and could possibly provide some helpful feedback. Fiona will speak to Kerri and ask whether she is open to doing a Lunch & Learn.
 - The program is currently booked for the week of April 30-May 3, 2019. However, with the outstanding questions, the student learning should likely be postponed until 2019-20 pending curriculum committee approval.

13. Sign Letters -- Katia, Brenna

- We need a volunteer to organize the letters for our sign every month. Brenna: as of today, this job has been given to a student. Done!

14. Halloween Dance -- Katie, Marika

- Preparations are underway -- the DJ is booked, the poster is out, and Margo has already booked the gym. Katie will talk to after-school care. We will need tables and chairs. We are planning to keep it simple this year and just do the dance -- no games.
- Are people comfortable with a costume contest? Traditionally this has been part of the dance, but it didn't happen last year. Some parents might be uncomfortable? The DJ was disappointed not to be able to give out prizes. We agreed to do it this year and see how it goes. Previously, judging has been done as a cheering contest. One option is to make it a raffle, instead of a competition, but some kids really do make an effort with their costumes and would appreciate winning a prize. Marika: we could put information about the costume contest in the email that goes out through the class reps.

15. Craft Fair -- Katia

- November 24 -- tables are totally booked, with a waitlist, and everyone is almost paid up
- Donations have been requested, advertising (with Tina on social media) is in process
- Next step is to establish key people to manage the various areas. Mercedes is on for the bake sale again this year, but Christine is not, so we need another person there. Katia will email the point people for concession, raffle, etc., ask them to do it again, then reach out for additional people as necessary. Having this ready by the time of the dance would be ideal.
- contact Reynolds to send volunteers for setup
- no book fair again this year, but there will be a kids' section again -- signup info will be sent out

16. Walking & Biking to School -- Erin

- This is Walk to School week -- Erin is too busy to deal with it this year, and no one else has stepped up to take it on either. However, we can do active transportation events any time -- a package of stuff was sent to us, but we were just not in a position to use it this week.
- Traffic this year is busy, but Brenna and Jana have not noticed a lot of complaints yet this year

- Other schools have formed Active Transportation working groups, which we might want to explore.
- We will focus on events for Bike to School in the spring.

17. Fundraisers for the year -- Erin

- Doncaster shirts -- it has been 3 years since we've done these, and there are students interested in buying them. If anyone feels like doing an order, they could email Alexis and get info from her -- print a few samples and then take orders.
- Cindy: there are some examples in the PAC area -- they didn't get a good result last time because they were grey and kind of neutral, yet expensive -- check what they are and go a different route?
- Katia observed that there are ever more options now with web-based retailers for shirts, even water bottles, etc. Cindy: the drawstring bags were a good seller -- popular. Katia has been approached by a variety of aggressive sellers via email for fundraisers -- many different possibilities with branded products. While we don't want to make people feel forced to buy, consensus was that offering school shirts/water bottles was different because it fosters school spirit.
- Katie and Marika both offered to check into possibilities.

18. Principal & Vice-Principal's Reports

- Brenna: on September 17 we had Pro-D with Shelley Moore, who does research in inclusive education -- shared with Oaklands for the whole day. We learned a great deal about designing so we can better support, meet the needs of all our learners. The school support team will be meeting soon as well to develop strategy.
- Jana: so far we have had two cross-country meets, lots of kids participating, getting up early to come to practice, and the weather is holding. The next meet is at Gorge.
- Brenna: teachers have been looking at coding, they are very excited -- MakerSpace this year is with Mme Lisa Taylor, who has the tech background and desire to do it, and is a French immersion teacher too -- we are hoping to grow that program when Mme Coons comes back.
- Jana: thank you for the Magic Forest cleanup, the forest has been well used this week, lots of teachers taking kids out there. At a previous school, we had rain garden with QR codes with information -- could try interactive stuff, lots of fun things we can do
- parent-teacher interviews coming up October 24-25 -- early dismissal those days -- teachers will contact parents with further information
- Brenna: our new code of conduct for the school was launched the first week. 4 rules: care for others, yourself, property/environment, be safe -- we have been talking about ways to reinforce that -- Jana working with student leadership.
- Finally, Hilda would like to do a pumpkin-carving contest -- one of her best memories of school -- and wondered if PAC would like to help. Lots of enthusiasm for this idea, but we are unsure of the logistics with 400 students. A number of ideas were discussed, mainly centring around

having carved pumpkins at the dance. Katie will talk with Hilda about her ideas and we'll go from there.

- Brenna: we did purchase & receive playground equipment (including rainbow bags) -- thank you!
- Question from Marika: are we still saving toward playground replacement, or will government program pay for it? Answer: we are unsure whether/how that might happen, so will continue to save.
- Jana looked into the welcome pole, and the protocols about who would carve, how we'd pay them, what kind of pole. The call would have to go out to the Nation first (on land where it is located) to see if anyone is available. Oaklands is doing one now, but a parent carver is donating their time -- recommended budget is about \$50 000. If it turns out that we do not have to purchase the new playground equipment, those funds could be redirected to the welcome pole. Oaklands will be putting together an instruction package, basically, so we (and others) can learn from their experience -- in particular, finding out where they applied for grants.

Next Meeting: Thursday 1 November 2018

Katia Dilkina adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm