

DPAC MONTHLY MEETING: 14 Sept 2021

Nicole Woods called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

In attendance:

Nicole Woods	Cyndi Whaley	Nic Green	Jodi Green
Laura Mercer	Alison Hamer	Sondra Showers	Adrienne White
Sandra Robertson	Warren Weicker	Alexander Warrington	Elena Schultz
Penelope Barillaro	Alex Zolpys	Cindy Luchka	Chris Wright
Katie Ryan	You Tuhong	Stacey Brownell	Rory Beise
Mari Imahori	Ima Rahmanian	Erin Prescott	Ran Tao
Jennifer Bateman	Katia Dilkina	Marika Glickman	Saumyata Kaushik
Erin Long	Dragan Colic	Amanda Giese	

Staff: Mrs. Cindy Harte, Mr. Tim McCreesh

1. Round table introductions (including Sondra Showers who is the new school councillor, at Doncaster on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Usually kids referred to her by their teachers, but that's not totally necessary).
2. Katia gave a territorial acknowledgement
3. June 2021 Minutes to Approve: motion to approve by Adrienne White, seconded by Jodi Green.
4. Monk's School Supplies (Laura Mercer):
 - June and Sept delivery/pickups.
 - Doncaster keeps 10% of the sales and \$917 raised, but may be higher because of late orders.
 - Every order has an option to donate an additional \$5 to DPAC, but Monks doesn't know how much we raised from that.
 - Nicole mentioned several other companies who do this service. We may look into one of those, particularly if they're local. Wasn't smooth with Monks this year.
5. Garden update (Cindy & Tim):
 - The garden is glorious, grew a lot over the summer and parent volunteers helped out with it over the summer, and underground irrigation was installed by some parents.
 - Signing up classes to do winter planting.
 - Another grant obtained - \$3000 USD from Whole Foods (~\$3500 CAD). Mme Ewald had applied - thanks to her!
 - Expected to spend it on shelving and hooks in the garden shed. Redo the pathways (more mulch). Abigail has a huge long list of stuff to do.
6. Strings update (Nicole): we've kept the program for the grade 5s at Doncaster. But the school district will be revisiting the 2022-23 budget again, so it may not be guaranteed for next year.
7. Cindy & Tim's update:

- They will be hiring more staff (temp for Mrs Montgomery... Mrs Robin subbing at the moment). Mrs Lampart, Mrs Septon. Mrs Johnson (2 days/week leave - so someone to fill in). Mr McKreesh using his 0.1 day/week - they are going to hire for that.
 - Shared info sheet on combined classes was shared with Doncaster families. Questions? Katia asking if a gap in learning gets created for kids in a split. Cindy says no, because teachers teach each child where they are at and move them along. Cindy says that combined classes aren't new and won't go away. Students picked based on criteria that they shared in the document. Cyndi asked what is minimum for number of students per grade in the combined? Cindy H: They try not to go below 6, but sometimes they do as there's no rule for the minimum. Cindy has experience with only 3 kids)
 - Outdoor learning: how does it impact children's social and emotional wellness? Data gathered last year, via the Early Development Instrument (EDI). Grade 5s wrote it. Admin also did their own survey that was given to students via their teachers. These data will be combined and analysed this year. -- when ready, the data could be its own meeting. Maybe one will be scheduled with Nicole.
 - Overall, the school year is going really well (compared to last year). The protocols for COVID are all in place. The kids are resilient. Very smooth start, though busy.
8. Back to school BBQ (Cindy H.): the district has banned large outdoor gatherings at the schools at this time (no timeline given). Food trucks cancelled. Staff will work on making initial contacts with families. Parent teacher interviews will be in October (probably virtual or outside one family at a time).
 9. 2021/2022 School Events (Nicole & Cindy H): Halloween dance, Bingo, Movie nights, etc. unfortunately are no go for this fall. Revisit in the new year when BC health authority gives further guidance.
 10. Class reps (Nicole): Nicole explained to new families what the class reps do (e.g., coordinate group gift for teacher, communicate PAC-related stuff to families). We are looking for parent volunteers at this point. Elena Schultz a parent volunteer for one of her older kid's class. Jodi Green volunteering to be parent rep for Mrs Robins. Katia volunteering for Mme Walker's class. Cindy will be sending out a letter with the reverse permission for joining the class list, and they also put out a call for class reps in that letter.
 11. PAC newsletter: Because Adrienne is treasurer this year, looking for a new volunteer to do it. Jen Grant volunteered at the June meeting (so did Joel, but he is not with Doncaster anymore). Sandra Robertson is interested in the role if Jen doesn't want to. Adrienne described what this job entails. Katia talked about why it's important to maintain the independent-of-administration communication from DPAC to families.
 12. Doncaster wear (Cindy): plan to do another grade 5 hoodie, where on the back it says class of '22, and the class's signatures. She doesn't have dates yet for when the orders need to be submitted, aiming for delivery in November (before Christmas). Doncaster wear (hoodies) is also popular with the new kindergarten families too. Pickup was from Cindy's house last year, but not sure this year. She'll have more details in October. Nicole encourages other parents on the meeting to volunteer to work with Cindy on the Doncaster wear fundraiser to get up to speed with someone experienced.

13. The Card Project (Nicole): looking for a volunteer to organize this this year with Nicole as supporting player (was Cindy L in the past). This time around, we decided to go with a new company that offers a larger range of products. Orders in October, and delivery in November. Laura Mercer has volunteered. The job is not difficult since the ordering is done online, and the teachers do the artwork with the kids in their classrooms.
 - In the chat, Jodi & Nic Green mention a Mabels Labels fundraiser link for labelling supplies. Erin responded that we have received funding from Mabels Labels before, and that the DPAC website has a link for Mabels Labels.
14. Magic Forest cleanup (Nicole): beginning of year cleanup. Cindy Harte has mentioned the need for it. A couch has been dumped there (Cindy will ask the district to haul that away). A dangling branch has been removed. But more, smaller scale, cleanup is needed. Erin offered to organize a cleanup for the weekend of Sept 25th. She will set up a sign up sheet so that not too many people come at once (similar to work parties for the garden), because of COVID. Possibly coordinating with a work party for the garden (Erin will check with Abigail about that).
15. Fun Lunch Program (Nicole): Mari has volunteered to be the parent coordinator. Nicole asking how parents feel about continuing this program. Right away, or wait? Overhaul the program for more nutrition and less waste? Nicole suggesting we postpone the program until January, in order to give time for a parent committee to be formed and research options.
 - Mari mentioned Truffles catering, which is the provider for the school meals program, and they fill the nutrition criteria. However, during COVID, it's all individually packaged. However, pre-covid, they had cafeteria trays (less waste), but this involves more manual labour serving kids. Cindy says that Doncaster staff is hoping not to be involved, particularly because lunch break is shorter this year.
 - Nicole mentioned that fully vaccinated parents are allowed to come into the school to volunteer.
 - Cyndi mentioned that we shouldn't be aiming to imitate the school meal program, and keep it as a *fun* lunch.
 - Jodi mentioned in the chat about getting a kid-friendly food truck, and Katia mentioned that that might not work because of the limited amount of time at lunch.
 - Katia feels strongly about the environmental criteria.
 - Penelope emphasizes that the fun lunch gives parents a break, and that kids really look forward to it. Encouraging that we get it off the ground as soon as possible.
 - Nicole and Mari to chat, and will send a note to parents to have a separate virtual meeting on this topic to make decisions.
 - Laura mentioned in the chat that post-pandemic, the amount of waste will go down again.
 - Cindy L. mentions that Subway is the easiest to do, and it meets nutrition requirements. The package can/should be composted. Possibly have kids pack their waste for home. Subway would be easiest to do earlier.
16. Katia mentions the student agendas - she finds them wasteful and often not used (only 10% used in her kids'). She's wondering if a different option could be used. Tim says that staff will talk about this. Nicole mentioned that M Bremaud using a duotang where one sheet is added per week. Cindy H. mentioned that she welcomes the idea of getting rid of them.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, 5 October 2021, via Zoom

Nicole Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm