

Robert Munsch Public School

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, December 4th, 2014

In attendance: Elaine Hunter, Crystal Mott, Greg Collins, Sarah Loeffler, Kristina Iantria, Janath Vesna, Jennifer Bolton, Michael Neve, Jonathan Mitchell

Icebreaker/TRIBE activity

- Intro – will re-visit the planned activity for tonight in January when we have more people in attendance

Adoption of Minutes from October Meeting

- Cannot adopt minutes – no quorum
- Will send out Email re: Heather's request to amend the minutes to see if majority of council is in favour of making the change

Admin Report

- Remembrance Day ceremony was well attended (by community and school members) and well received; students were well behaved and interested
- Good News assembly (first) was a success – students enjoyed it and were engaged and community members in attendance had positive feedback
- Positive Learning Environments Committee - still looking at how to honour character matters etc. and celebrate success in an authentic manner
- One suggestion was to have the rubber bracelets as motivators to celebrate success (either the regular rubber ones or more environmental friendly ones)
- Looking at the Coyote Guide – combining nature with the individual – it is cumulative – has had success on Georgina Island
- How to balance getting children motivated with having them do what we expect of them for the sake of doing it vs. The sake of the 'trinket'
- Progress reports, JK visits and parent-teacher nights successful
- Parent-guardian engagement survey – getting good information for preferences/needs of the community
- Roots of empathy started in FDK – need more instructors
- First Nations Metis and Inuit Early Years learning collaborative – group of staff across grade levels working to support this initiative
- Holiday of Heroes Food Drive – going well – Dec. 12th pick up scheduled
- Pizza lunch program successful
- Grade 3 House League floor hockey starting this week
- Eco Schools – meeting with kindergarten and grade 1 representatives who will be leaders in the program along with teacher support

- Artists' studio – commitment of staff and students – looking great
- Resources to support student achievement – iPads/laptops available in each classroom – additional ones are coming; technology carts, \$10000 to be purchased for FDK program, math manipulatives (math cart per classroom ideal) being ordered to support numeracy, grade teams purchasing texts to engage readers
- Book Fair - \$1800 in product as a result of the fair – Ms. Mott purchased an easel, books and other resources for the Learning Commons
- Initial Draft of School Council Constitution – first draft shared and reviewed. It is available as a Google Doc so council members can view and update it
 - Discussion re: student representation – how to engage primary students in decisions, input, etc. (suggestion: ideas for playground, where fundraising dollars should go, etc.)
 - Will send out Google Doc link for all others to view – will re-visit for January meeting

Treasurer report

- \$18,859 - \$10K from MAPS
- Pizza Lunches - \$7205.87
- Poinsettias - \$1,653 – Jen Mackey would like to update everyone in January Re: this fundraiser

Fundraising updates

Pizza Lunch

- Sarah Black – needs to create a sub-committee for the pizza lunch program – Elaine will send Jan Sarah's Email information to be sent out via Email for support
 - May need permits for after 6pm (for people to count money etc.)
- Next round of orders to go out on January 12th - will create sub-committee at January meeting

Kids Kitchen vs. Lunch Lady

- Sarah L. Provided a comparison chart between the 2
- Initial responses to survey suggest that people would be interested in purchasing hot lunches from one of the providers
- Need to vote on which one to go with (if any) and how to get the information out to parents
- School could purchase insulated bags for the kindie classes who have later lunches
- Could we offer both options for a couple of months so parents could decide?

Miko-Samko

- Our sale window ends this Sunday (December 7th) – reminder will go out to parents via school Blog tomorrow

Chapters-Indigo

- Emailed Newmarket store manager re: selecting an in-store date and setting up the event – still waiting to hear back – will follow up next week again

- Will set up the online fundraiser ASAP and figure out best way to get word out to school community (any online gift cards purchased – a percentage comes back to us) – this can be renewed every 60 days

Fundraising allocation committee

- Outdoor school playground company – Kristina met with Creative Playgrounds – provided suggestions re: what to paint on the ground – animal footprints, picture frames for sidewalk chalk art, alphabet pieces, map of Canada, hockey net areas – all painted on the ground, 4 square playing areas, Fox and Goose game areas, hop scotch alphabet, maze, regular hopscotch (for kindie pen) etc. – looking at a cost of \$1100-1200 (approximately); all paint is yellow (primarily) – company would love teacher input as well as student input; can paint starting approximately April 1st depending on weather.
 - Questions – longevity? Upkeep? Kristina to follow up
- Other ideas – outdoor equipment – basketball nets (\$1100-1300), tether ball, goal posts/free standing - \$500/pair
- Suggestion to put a percentage towards a playground fund; use the rest for outdoor stuff
- Natural Playgrounds – use natural items (trees, stumps, rocks, etc.) – meets safety standards – idea vs. Synthetic. Also spoke with ABC recreation (School Board approved) – can do similar but with synthetic products – lasts 25+ years; Bienenstock (School Board approved)
- What type of equipment to install in the spring and how much to spend vs. Save
- Idea: dedicated website for the playground fund – community members can go in and donate at will – Shelbourne PS did this – are their requirements for YRDSB?
- Doing natural based playground allows for implementation in phases so that current students can enjoy the products; community members can help with site prep to save on costs
- Sand pits? Potential. . .

New Topics

- Jan to do a Survey Monkey (or similar) for voting items to be taken care of before next meeting
- Family math night – has been discussed and initial responses to parent engagement survey suggest there is great support for this – school parent engagement committee looking into this
- Holiday concert – nothing in the evening; potentially a Good News assembly during the day
- Crossing Guard and ‘school zone’ signs – currently doesn’t qualify (town survey) – will return in January – parents can contact the town/their councillor re: signs
- How do accident reports/info transfer between before/after care and school (i.e. incidents, injuries, etc.)? nothing specific but Mr. Collins indicated that the school works closely with the before/after school care provider

Next meeting: Thursday January 14th