

February 2021

"The greatest gift you can ever give is your honest self" ~ Mr. Rogers

Thank you to staff and parents for the heartfelt effort you gave to helping our face-to-face students with a safe and smooth transition back to class. For those who are studying online, you're doing great! Keep up the good work, and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming virtual engagement events.

This month our school celebrated Black History Month, Chinese Lunar New Year and Pink Shirt Day in recognition of anti-bullying. Through school council last month, we built snowmen and we gathered virtually for two movie nights where we enjoyed watching "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and "Over the Moon" together.

This month we are hosting a virtual storytelling night on February 26th which you will not want to miss! The virtual storytelling night coincides with the launch of our Read-a-thon. More information about that can be found on page 5. Spirit Days are starting up again. If you haven't voted for your favourite themes yet, please do so using the form which is also on page 5.

A reminder that our next virtual school council meeting is on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Please let the office know if you would like to attend.

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School Council Meeting Highlights

LOL JOKES

Q: How do billboards talk?

A: Sign language

Q: What did the left eye say to the right eye?

A: Between us, something smells

Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?

A: Because 7, 8, 9

Do you have a funny joke to share?
Send it to stonehaven.es@sc.yrdsb.ca and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

HA
HA

YOU'RE INVITED TO STONEHAVEN'S

VIRTUAL STORYTELLING NIGHT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

ONLINE

STARTING AT 6:30 PM

Some of your favourite
teachers are reading their
favourite books...

**THIS IS A NIGHT
THAT YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS!**

The link for this special event will
be sent to your email on Friday.

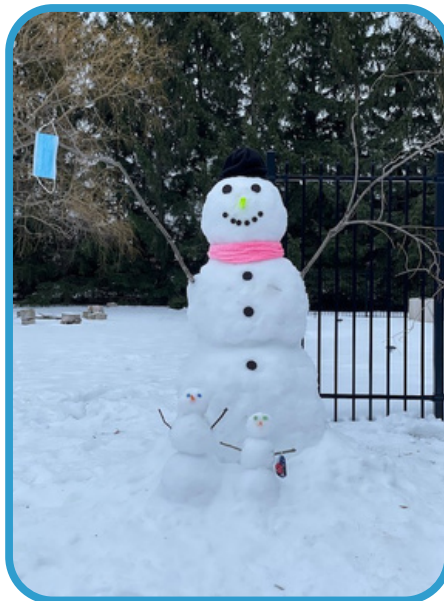
Put on your PJs, grab a stuffy
and snuggle down for some
really enjoyable stories.

SNOWMAN BUILDING CONTEST ~ VOTING

This past January, Stonehaven School Council held a snowman building contest and we are asking for your help awarding each participant a special designation!

Please click on this link to access the voting form:

<https://forms.gle/bXTSQ5d7kQXv84ep7>



SNOWMAN BUILDING CONTEST



Thank you to everyone who participated!

Your creations are truly special. We hope that you had fun and enjoyed the fresh winter weather.

Each participant will be awarded a personalized certificate and a special prize. Participants will be notified via email.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

CRAZY SOCK DAY!



The students voted and "**Crazy Sock Day**" will be the theme for our next spirit day. More details will be sent to you via email.

In the meantime, vote for future spirit day themes [here](#).



mabel's labels

School Council would like to remind you about our fundraising campaign with Mabel's Labels. Help stop the spread of germs in the classroom by labelling your children's gear! If you place an order, our school will receive 20% of your purchase price. These funds help support school initiatives. Visit mabelslabels.com, click 'Support A Fundraiser' and find Stonehaven Elementary School in the search bar. Thank you!



Our Read-a-thon is officially underway. As our Stonehaven community celebrates the importance of literacy, our students will be reading for 10 consecutive days for a set amount of time with their class.

Students will benefit from this Read-a-thon in two ways.

- 1.They will exercise their minds and improve their reading skills
- 2.The money raised will help support literacy and school initiatives that help improve your child's academic experience.

To support the Read-a-thon, please consider making a nominal donation to our school by visiting School Cash Online or clicking [here](#) for direct access to the page.

Tax receipts will be issued for all donations received. Every amount helps. More information about this fundraiser will be sent via email. Thank you for your support!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Here is a brief summary of what was discussed at the February 4, 2021 Council Meeting. The minutes will be posted following approval at the next meeting.

Balance in our account: \$1,021.03

Staff Report:

- Starting the process for planning for the 2021-2022 school year, too early to forecast our numbers, hope to have a clearer picture by the next meeting.
- Minister of Education announced return to in-person learning on February 16, 2021
- School model change survey open until February 8, 2021
- Staffing change: Ms. Kim took over for Mr. Hutchison's Grade 7 homeroom. Ms. Tesfaledet took over for Ms. Kim as of February 2.
- Caretakers did a thorough cleaning of the school, and are getting to do many things that they typically could not do during the school year including laying new tiles upstairs, painting, etc.
- Parents have reached out to express gratitude to the teachers who are going above and beyond
- No requests from staff to School Council at this time

Chair Report:

Communication: We continue to communicate with families via newsletter which is sent through email and posted to the council webpage. Hopefully we can use the small bulletin board by the office next year for printed communication.

Sushi Night: Sushi Night was a success, photos were included in the December newsletter and three families wrote notes of thanks for hosting the event.

ArtShine: Sold \$749 through ArtShine fundraiser and will receive 10% of sales (\$74.90)

Movie Nights: Hosted two enjoyable Teleparty movie nights, including a call before the event to provide technical assistance and allow friends to see one another.

Read-a-Thon and Virtual Storytelling Night: Not launched yet because we hit a hurdle. Teachers are onboard with the reading portion, and 11 teachers are planning to record videos of themselves reading for our virtual storytelling night. With the Read-a-Thon company, funds can only be received via PayPal and we do not have an account.

Two options for moving forward:

- 1) Create our own read-a-thon and ask families who wish to support it to make donation through School Cash Online
 - 100% profit
 - Tax receipt issued for any amount
- 2) Omit the fundraiser portion and just enjoy the virtual storytelling event at the end of the month

Council decided to move forward with a read-a-thon fundraiser using School Cash Online for the collection of any donations.

Snowman Contest: Contest closes Friday, February 5th. 7-10 families sent in pictures and will be recognized in the next newsletter. We will send certificate in the mail (need permission from school and participants for this to happen) and give each family a package of expanding snow as their reward.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - CONT.

Purchase of expanding snow can be done using Council's Chapter's gift card. Motion to spend up to \$20 on this purchase was approved

Spirit Days: Rafaela created a Google form for the students to vote on themes for the coming months, and she also drafted a letter for us to send to the school community. Thank you, Rafaela!

Plant Fundraiser: Jill got us up and running with our plant fundraiser which is scheduled for March. Thank you so much for taking care of that, Jill! More information to come.

Martial Arts Event: Rafaela made arrangements for us to host our virtual martial arts event on Sunday, March 28th at 2 pm. Mark your calendars!

Discretionary Fund: Motion passed setting this year's discretionary fund at \$100

Up-Coming Events and Activities:

PRO Grant: School Council representatives voted on topics of interest. Four topics were submitted including: Mental Health, Diversity and Inclusion with focus on Anti-Racism, Parenting Strategies during the Pandemic and Screenagers: Next Chapter. Once grant is confirmed, dates will be confirmed and information will be shared with the school community

Gratitude Letters for Staff: Council would like to send each teacher a personalized letter thanking them for their hard work. Include quotes and/or comments from some of their students. If a teacher doesn't have a student who participates, they would receive a kind note written by us on behalf of the school.

Recipe Book Fundraiser and April

Engagement Event: Waiting to hear back from Heritage Cookbook, but still planning this for April fundraiser

- Plan to engage families to collect recipes, photos and stories
- Heritage Cookbook is able to ship directly to families (in accordance with YRDSB guidelines), price will include shipping costs, costs would be in line with annual yearbook
- Shameela proposed we time the fundraiser with the Pro Grant Diversity and Inclusion speaker event or host a separate speaker event. No decision has been made at this time.
- Subject to Provincial Funding announcements, all schools will receive \$500.00 to support their School Council in facilitating parent engagement. Explore possibility of using these funds to host a parent engagement event on the topic of diversity and inclusion
- May consider using the YRDSB print shop to save on printing costs but need to explore distribution means and Shameela will explore options

Constitution Review: Constitution Sub-Committee members included Cathy Miles, Shameela Hoosen-Shakeel, Rafaela Abraham, Jennifer Strong, Tim Dunn and Jason Eygenraam

- Reviewed proposed additions/changes
- Comments/suggestions will be incorporated and sent to School Council members to review and vote on at the next Council meeting
- The approval process of the minutes is being re-examined and Jason Eygenraam suggested that we speak to the Board to seek clarification on protocols.

School Model Change: Please speak to the office if you have questions.



HOW TO CONTACT THE STONEHAVEN SCHOOL COUNCIL

Do you have an idea for the newsletter or a Council initiative? Would you like to volunteer your time on one of our projects or events?

Do you have a joke to share, a great picture of your child learning, an idea for a future event or questions about our activities? We would like to hear from you!

Please direct your questions, ideas and submissions to the School Council email account which is: stonehaven.es@sc.yrdsb.ca

You may also visit our webpage for additional resources, information and updates from council.

Please note that additions to the meeting agenda must be received two weeks prior to the council meeting date. Meeting dates are on our council [website](#).

If you would like to attend a virtual meeting, please send a message to the office so they can add you to the list. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 1, 2021. We hope to see you there.

Kindest regards,
Cathy Miles
Chair, on behalf of School Council