

Cootes Paradise Home and School Meeting
November 28, 2018 7:00-8:30

Present:

Danny Fede (Principal), Louise Van derPut (Vice Principal), Kim Mackenzie (teacher), Veronica Riemer, Rachel Siverns, Kalpana Nair, Angeline Navaniban, Elsa Marques, Mariuxi Leon, Sijui Tao, Joanne Tansley, Sue Dumitru (Teacher), Katherine Tiringner (Teacher Representative), Lynda Brewer, Marleen Van den Broek, Michelle Balcers (Parent Rep Coordinator), Molly Griffioen (Vice-President), Heather Harvey (President), Steve Lott (Treasurer), Erin Lepischak (Secretary)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Review of Agenda:

- A call for additional agenda items was made.
- Approval of Previous Minutes (September 2018): Approved by Lynda Brewer, seconded by Elsa

3.0 Principal's Report:

- Thanks to parents volunteering with Lunch Clubs
- Staffing update: Marcia (in main office) is moving to Dr. Seaton on Jan 7.
- Newsletter will be sent Dec 3rd from main office. Can also receive updates from Remind, school website, or office Bulletin board
- Lockdown drill is scheduled for Dec 14; fire drills are completed.
- Ms. O'Breza and Mme Titian will be running a sock and mitten drive during the month of December.
- Letters were sent home on Tuesday with requested items for food drive.
- Portable is now being used for core French (teachers can now use their classrooms during prep periods)
- School Council meeting will be an EQAO information session Wed Dec 5 at 6:30 pm.
- Canned goods drive at the holiday concert.

4.0 Teacher's Report:

Mrs. Mackenzie

- Thanks for supporting wellness day (All of Me Day) on November 23rd.
- Kids were very engaged
- Had experts discuss and show activities

Mlle Tiringner

- Vision works - students had eye exams
- Grade 5 is doing volleyball teams (girls and boys) in prep for going to Dalewood
- McMaster students will be volunteering to create a soccer league

- CCAT testing was just done with Grade 4 students - it is a screening testing for gifted students
- Mrs. O'Breza has a robotics club
- Music Programme: Choir practices continue (Day 1 for Grade 1, Day 3 for Grades 2/3, and Day 5 for grades 4/5). Hand bells group also practicing on Mondays. The Holiday concert Dec 13th from 6:30-7:30: dress rehearsal for students during the day, parents can come in the evening. There will be a canned food drive and a bake sale at the concert.
- Thanks to H & S for providing funds for artists in the classroom
- Grade 1 FI will be doing field trips to the Library; as well as Dundurn Castle Visit.
- K/G1 teachers have been meeting with Literacy lead teacher for early reading strategies.

5.0 School Council Update

- Oct 17 Parent Involvement Committee conducted a training on Parent Council responsibilities (4 Parents from Cootes attended).
- Investigating grant opportunities
- Deb Denman will be community rep
- Next meeting Dec 5 6:30-8 pm, focus on EQAO. All parents are welcome.
- Would like to propose changing Facebook page to reflect both groups
- Heather Harvey pointed out that Facebook algorithm has changed to de-prioritize posts, with few views.
- Suggested that class reps should invite people to join
- Suggested to keep private because it allows posting of children's names. (For instance clothing labels within lost and found)
- Decision to change name to reflect whole school community. It is now called Cootes Paradise Elementary Parent Community.
- It was noted that there is no person in a Communications Position monitoring this page.

5.1 Arts Council

- Blank Canvass focuses on groups based on grades
- Artist in the classroom - has teacher reps for each group; artists have been chosen, then teachers will coordinate.
- Funding for print-making box: would like to make boxes for JK/SK classes. 1 set would be made for each classroom; each class would have a station for 5 children.
- Next meeting Dec 6, 3:30 pm. New members are welcome.
- Paisley art exhibit: Mme Trepanier's class was drawn, take a look from Feb 1- March 15.

6.0 Treasurer Report

- \$2000 was raised at Movie Night - minus expenses of approximately \$1500
- \$1000 raised at Pumpkin Hike (after buying pumpkins and making donations to RBG for the use of the trails and Smiles over Sickness as a thank-you for running games)
- Pizza fundraising similar to last year
- \$250 raised at Open House Bakesale

- Poinsettia fundraising money still coming in.
- Fundraising dollars were spent on Hydration station and all classrooms had fans purchased, support for class trips (\$10/student), school performances (plays) are supported as well.
- Request made for donation from outreach budget to Westdale Secondary School Holiday Hampers. \$200 was donated in the past. Cootes Paradise also has a "Cootes Cares" run by teachers to support students, and we can use in-reach budget to support. Steve Lott moves to donate \$200 to Westdale Holiday Hampers, Lynda Brewer seconds, motion carried.

7.0 Class Rep report

- 23 out of 29 classes have reps
- Some classes almost all parents/guardians have signed up to receive updates via email, in other classes fewer have signed up.
- Please contact Michelle Balcers if you would like to be a class rep.

8.0 Fundraising/Current Initiatives

- Poinsettias - Pick up Dec 10th in the Portable
- Bake sale at the Holiday Concert - Dec 13
- Move and Groove a thon - will happen in the spring
- Night Hike went well - thanks to the teachers for carving.
- Tastebuds snack program - we funded bins to allow easier distribution.
- 200 students are engaged in Lunch clubs (this is not including choir students who are not eligible for Lunch clubs)
- Read-a-thon: towards the end of January. Class minutes are tallied, classes receive ballots based on total tally at the end of the two weeks, and are entered into a draw to win a prize (some sort of class party).

11.0 Open Discussion - Survey Results.

- Comments were summarized, opportunity given to add to results.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Next Meeting Jan 23rd in the library at 7:00 pm.