

Gatestone Parent Council
Monday April 24, 2017

Attendance

Mike
Marissa
Renee
Marie
Mya
Lee
Jennifer
Sonia
Krystal
Barbara
Hema
Robyn
Chantelle

Old business

- Boston pizza night - cancelled due to low interest - numbers?
 - Hiccups confirming information to BP - mis-communication on timing for information to get to BP - they need the numbers thursday prior - we gave them our information for numbers 2 weeks before. Next time we will set clearer guidelines and be ready for a more successful fundraiser. Mike - confirm numbers that were signed up
 - Jenn did a great job - all very organized and ready to go.
- Anti bully day success and wonderful pictures
 - Lots of participation in the lower grades, still a stigma about wearing pink for boys. Could be a defense mechanism because the child might not have been allowed or able to wear a pink.
 - Order forms came out to order pink anti-bully shirts (kids and adult sizes)
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- Teacher recognition - is the teacher being recognized outside of the newsletter?...many teachers don't read newsletter
 - Brought to Robyn's attention - are the teachers who are recognized notified outside of the newsletter - Mike - yes they are at the staff meeting
 - Mr Tyler Troisi - supply - connected with the kids quickly, taught them magic tricks, grade 8's. Came in and took over grade 8 class, highly respected, loved by the kids
 - Was Miss Pliura - concentrates a huge amount of effort on literacy and mathematics - points out and keeps kids engaged - great enthusiasm - and love for the kids and she's involved in Parent Council!!! Great with the dance kids, she always goes above and beyond, great teacher.
 - Mrs Nash - $\frac{2}{3}$ split - calls like once a month to let them know how the kids progress is going - and gives ideas of how to improve literacy and numeracy
- Reminder - open house May 11 - start time? - to confirm-1)jen getting g/c this weekend, 2)ticket sale option confirm, 3)jen can't get the ticket tumbler, 4)once confirmed ticket sale option we need signage (Susie poster?, front sign, website and twitter)
 - Start Time - 5-7

- Grade 8's will be in Montreal
- Jenn - planning to get g/c for Great Wolf Lodge
- Cannot get ticket tumbler
- Tickets - school cash online? Karen looking into it. How many options can it take? Can it print labels? What's the easiest way to arrange. School cash until day of and then availability to buy tickets on the day in cash as well. Should we just go 1 ticket for \$5? To keep it simple? - then we can utilize School cash online. Can add items on school cash online that don't go away. So you can keep going back and buying more if you want. Quantity locked to 1 as school cash online will only give us 1 printout.
- Add to signage - purchase as often as you want. Break even is 100 tickets. Not relying on teachers to keep track of everything.
- **Final answer** - 1 for \$5 - school cash online - multiple purchases allowed, won't limit quantities, and available on the night of. - Will be managed at the office.
- What are we raising the money for?

New business

- 150 years - hwdsb providing options?
 - May 1st - Music Monday - wear red and white that day
 - No 'event's' put forward by HWDSB necessarily
 - Surprised nothing provided for awareness for students through the school
 - School should be main highway for celebration and awareness
- Device management and safety - the importance of devices are becoming a requirement within the learning environment
 - Technology is important and a great way for students to learn and a necessity
 - Note at beginning of year regarding student responsibility for devices
 - Concern: devices going missing....stolen/lost/damaged, on behalf of other parents as well. We are promoting this path, the teachers are here, students are here. We are highlighting responsibility, but not highlighting ways to secure and safe keeping of devices.
 - Propose device management policy - rise of safety issues for devices could deter students from bringing their devices in. Security, safety, insurance.
 - Could cause undue stress. Children do worry!
 - Should kids need to bring their own devices? - we have quite a lot of technology available to us at our school
 - Forms that come home from classrooms - can your child bring their device? - should those forms go home? - Is the form a information gathering form, or are the students/parents being pressured into bringing a device (Miss Pliura - maybe check with the individual teacher as this does not sound like a standard form)
 - Other comments: going to get marks off if can't upload something, caused pressure on child
 - Some children don't even have locks on their lockers - should this be mandatory? - especially if you have a device
 - Everyone has the same access to the ipads
 - Teacher knowledge of the classroom and availability of internet at home etc.
 - Sonia - does homework depend on what they do on a device at school?
 - Miss Pliura - every teacher in this school would accommodate for children who do not have access to a device.
 - Options available for students outside of **bringing** a device - every class has 6 ipads that they share. 2 pods 7PC's in each, 15 laptop carts, laptops for

downstairs wing, and available upstairs as well. If teacher highlights need for more, that can always be accommodated

- Mike - will not put any regulation or blanket statements - teachers vary in their teaching style will use technology in their own way. Nothing wrong with either style of teaching. The kids need to learn it, it is a part of the fabric of our society. Big pro's and big con's.
 - Theft etc. - to Mike's recollection - managed 3 lost devices since September. Marissa has not managed any - but some were found, that are still sitting in the office never claimed.
 - Damage - teacher could be managing it - if it was done purposely - office will find out. Accidents DO happen.
 - Kids bringing devices- every class has 6 ipads that they share. 2 pods 7 PC's in each, 15 laptop carts, laptops for downstairs wing, and available upstairs as well. If teacher highlights need for more, that can always be accommodated
 - The form has been highlighted for wording - has already been discussed - and will look different next year
 - We cannot require anything from the children that is part of the program
 - Any accommodations that need to be made
 - Homework is not assessed for report cards - because Mike and Marissa cannot assess it - parents highlighting that is not happening, and if that IS happening, and we should bring that forward to Mike and Marissa. Handing things in through google drive can be assessed, and therefore can be assessed for report cards. Is it a time management issue, or a time given issue? Highlight to Mike and Marissa if you see these issues, and we can see what is going on.
 - Peer pressure to bring devices - not because of the school, it's 'keeping up with the joneses' - esp in grade 6,7,8. Any app that has an academic purpose can be loaded on schools ipad.
 - Need to teach digital citizenship
 - Staff constantly review this topic - big topic
 - Sonia - school trip - grade 3's, 10 had phones, taking selfies etc. Some kids do need for safety in terms of getting to and from school etc.
 - Mike - if I am giving the child a device, I (the parent) take responsibility for the device. Not the school's job.
 - Lee - homework - should it be communicated to everyone that that it isn't assessed for report cards? Mike - ministry re-wrote report cards - 2010 - growing success = instruction set on how to produce report cards. As above - highlight issues to the teacher, or Mike.
 - Mya: Time management when sharing devices - those who have to share could have less time to complete a task
 - Mike - when the devices are being used - it's usually a group work activity
 - Homework will be marked for feedback, but not for your formal evaluation.
 - Call the teacher - be engaged with your teacher. - if you don't hear from that teacher within 2 business days - contact Mr Castellani
 - Takeaways - Mike
 - put in newsletter - what are the assessment expectations in terms of homework
 - What are expectations of devices in classrooms
 - Do classrooms have security processes in place? School - not to take responsibility for devices (other than gym)

- Blanket **awareness** that devices are NOT a requirement
- Remind staff - of those things above in staff meeting next Thursday

Round Table

Date for graduation could be different - June 20th or 22nd? - Mike to confirm.

Choking Game - coming back around

- Every year there is 'something'
- Has happened at our school - there were some kids from another school involved
- Isolated to grade 8's as far as we are aware - Mike had a long talk to the kids in grade 8's about it
- Mike spoke to all parents of children involved - and any kids who re-posted/shared it.
- Clear NO VIDEO policy on the playground
- Social media opens a whole world for transparency and availability of information
- Lives a little longer on social media as well
- Do we think it's gone from the school? Hopefully.
- Brought up as a 'challenge' like the ice bucket challenge

13 Reasons Why - advocate of children watching it in an age appropriate manner - had heard some grade 7's and 8's were going to watch the series. HWDSB sent out a note as well about mental health awareness.

Pend - Let's bring awareness to the technology about looking up history on devices. **September - lets have a parents night regarding safety of devices**

- Principal survey

Fundraiser co-chairs - absent

Sue (daycare) - absent

Principal/vice principal update -

Class structure for next year has been submitted.

Expanding a class

Class numbers will be <30, probably around 26 or 27's

June - will give us who is teaching what

April 30th is last date for classroom requests to be submitted in writing

Girl/boy ratios, special needs, birthdays, etc. Kids who might not get a lot with someone else. A lot of thought goes into who goes where.

Will find out which class they are in, on last report card

Robyn - Closing words

Great discussion tonight - we're all working towards the same goals, the good of our children!

Gatestone parent council

Date: Monday March 27th, 2017

Attendance:

Maja Buac, Mike Catellani, Marissa Turner, Robyn, Jen Graham, Suzi Popovic, Marie Pliura, Kylie Schmit, Barbara Braun, Sonia Kekic, Sue Couch, Renee Ringer, Pouya, Donna, Heema

Old Business:

- Successful Movie Night!
- cleared just over \$400 !!
 - went smoothly
 - no lawn chairs-some tried
 - no traffic in hallways
 - parents would like to see another one before the end of the year
 - might be much with the open house coming up
 - possibly Thursday, June 8th before another P.A. day
 - maybe we could pre-rip the tickets
 - have one person doing the tickets--bit of a shuffle with the pizza at same time
 - possibly organizing lineups better
 - bring up next meeting or two the movie options

New Business:

- Boston pizza night - question re 2 different age group nights in one family?, can general public show up and purchase that evening?
- information went out via multiple media
 - your payment options is either for Monday or Tuesday depending on the grade
 - if you have a child in multiple grades they will be able to chose either day.
 - there is no limit for the one day --we need to figure out how to relay that to the parents....there is some confusion regarding that
 - Boston Pizza is more concerned with the numbers to know approximately how much to prep
 - how would staff go? Jen will organize the tickets if the staff get a group together
 - is there specific times? Main dining room can sit 140. They would be willing to close the restaurant down if needed.
 - no bar since there are little kids
 - Other patrons unrelated to the school event can use that area
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- Open House - any additional updates to bring to the table?
- doing coffee and great wolfe Lodge
 - maybe start selling the raffle tickets one week before
 - possibly make a big cheque or something like that for the certificat
 - Mike and Marissa will be taking care of the "art" aspect of that
 - do the announcement during Friday morning announcements
 - 3 tickets for \$5 cash only
 - would it be a lot for the teachers to add to their workload
 - who would be doing the tickets, money etc.
 - pre print tickets they need to fill out?
 - teachers could collect the money and hand it in for the end of the day before the raffle day.....
 - Mike decided (after lots of back and forth brainstorming) that we WILL offer it on cash online
 - that will eliminate the loss of tickets etc. and maybe gain more trust from the parent side

- only asking staff to keep track of how many tickets student actually purchased (collection and recording)
- can be purchased on the night of
- Miss. Pliura suggested a random computerized selection process
- might be time consuming to enter all the names in
- Jen looking into getting a selection drum (bingo drum) for the draw
- Final decision- purchase ahead on cash online and in person the day of Open House
- Draw will be on the Friday morning- make sure parents understand
- trying to format school cash online to print out labels and multiple ones at a time
- come back to the print out process next meeting one the system has been looked into
- we will need flyers - wording -to use how you want at Great Wolf Lodge

Teacher recognition- Special attn to any particular teacher?

Ana nominated Miss Pliura because she is super nice

-Donna nominates Mrs. Nash for getting all those sticky tacks out of Nathans Hair

- Doodle 4 google - \$10000 technology prize
- Robyn found out about this
- Mike would need to go and submit the doodles for the school
- The winner will have their doodle up for the google doodle search engine
- Robyn will send the info and we will look further into it

Marissa and Mike:

- Lunch of champions outcome?
- -went really well
- Thanks to all the people who helped
- Food was great, hot, people loved it
- Student and parents satisfied
- Lots of fruit cups left, sub for something else next time
- Those who were away will be added to the June one
- Sticking with Burger Priest for next one as well
-
- Parking updates (topic raised at February mtg and suggested to move to March)
-
- Active travel plan

Nothing to add

- Shirts-done

Sue Daycare

-March break went really well

-All the trips went as scheduled except for the snow day

-summer camp registrations begin tomorrow

Addition- make sure to have the food bank next movie night

-June meeting make sure to plan for the September craft fair

-June meeting garage sale possibly for next school year in the spring

Mike/Marissa

- classroom list end of the school year, by June
- no names of teachers released
- adding one more junior class next school year to decrease the class numbers
- slowly getting numbers for the juniors , big rush usually in August
- class requests during month of April
- not accepted after April 30th
- April 11th will be able to know what types of classes we will have
- last year we had about 20 requests for the classrooms overall
- will not entertain requests for teachers
- only if you are getting the same teacher 3 years in a row- that is fair
- restructuring of the reading program within the school board
- none has full information yet, meeting is April 5th, hopefully more info. Then
- Firemarshal coming in April 5th, bit stressful , possibility of immediate fines if any found
- our building is in great shape, in compliance based on the school list they get
- bike to school -we will be getting another bike rack
- Mike will try and arrange for helmets (skater helmets \$20)
- bring Bike to school day back up next meeting
- back field is a mush now so we are keeping kids off during recess
- need to wait till it all dries out
- recognition for the new school custodian
- looking into adding another 4 square play area
- possibly line up lines on the ground
- Gatestone is not an instrumental school, no instrument able teacher
- Mike would need to have the ability to have a posting for the music teacher of that sorts but currently there are no provisions in our contracts to do so
- French as a second language is protected , music is not there yet
- maybe brought up in the next local contract-hopefully
- are other schools in our area being taught instrumental music?
- how does that affect our kids once they move up to high school?
- it is an elective so not essential to graduating , however it is hard nonetheless
- as parents we can contact the trustee!!!! Maybe that way it can become a priority for them

Robyn thanks EVERYONE from heart heart for being here tonight!!!