

Strathmillan Parent Council Meeting October 15, 2019

Call to order – 7:05 pm

Introductions around the table

Present:

Irene Beaulieu

Khatuna Nawolski

Carina Fitzpatrick

Jared Fitzpatrick

Matthew McBurney

Sandy Marsh Hamm

Kim McCallum

Janet Lewis

Liz Bilyk

Cameron Lundgren

Catherine Lamoroux

Heather Palmer, Principal

Bev Stephenson, Vice-Principal

Chair Report – Sandy

Executive for 2019-2020

Co-Chairs: Sandy Marsh Hamm (2nd year) and Matthew McBurney (1st year)

VP: Rebecca Misko (1st and last year)

Treasurer: Felicia Lundgren (1st and last year)

Secretary: Irene Beaulieu (3rd and last year)

Review of AGM on September 6th

What is the feedback to having the AGM at the Welcome coffee on the first day of school?

Sandy felt somewhat uncomfortable with the process, felt like parents were forced to join the meeting.

On the other hand, if we didn't do it this way, we would not be able to get the numbers needed to meet quorum. Without quorum of 5% of our school population, we would not be able to function as Parent Council and therefore would be unable to fundraise.

Request from the Music department

Ms. Bergen has asked if Parent Council will be able to once again sponsor the transportation for the WSO this year.
Cost for busing is around \$1300.00.
Motion is put forward by Cam not to exceed \$1300.00 to cover cost of transportation.
Seconded by Matthew.
All in favour – motion passed.

Admin Report - Heather

School Goals and Priorities for 2019 -2020

Problem Solving:

By June 2020, 100% of our students will be able to represent and communicate problem solving processes, strategies, and solutions, concretely, orally and in writing. All students will engage in a growth mindset and improve mathematical dispositions and attitudes. A growth mindset and develop resiliency to persevere when encountering challenge and struggle.
Students see themselves as mathematicians, scientists, writers, etc.
Skills to communicate mathematical reasoning with peers.
Skills to engage in discussions while forming understanding of problems.
Use math journals to record their thinking and demonstrate their learning in a variety of Ways.
Skills to generate a math question for a problem (using the 3-Read Approach).

Critical Thinking:

By June 2020, 100% of our students will use the elements of reading and writing across content areas to critically articulate thinking, deepen understanding and communicate ideas.
Through play, stories, and other experiences, students will demonstrate curiosity, ask questions, or use "I wonder..." statements, to make predictions and inferences.
Knowledge and skills to communicate their thinking.
Express opinions about reading and writing choices with justification.
Make connections with text to text, text to self, and text to world.
Students use various comprehension strategies to make meaning and share viewpoints.
Knowledge and ability to co-create criteria for assessing critical thinking.
Students use a variety of crafting techniques to communicate thinking.

School Capital D plans for 2020:

Mirrors for the first wing bathrooms (boys and girls).

Exterior Light at second wing.

Bottle Fill station added to fountain in middle hallway.

Bottle Fill fountain added to middle hallway.

Remove sink in Child Care area.

New Blinds in Room 19.

Safe Schools Update:

Attached is a letter on how to call in your absences to the school. We are no longer taking calls

at the office for anyone who is late, absent or leaving early. This can all be done on School

Messenger.

There are 3 ways to submit an absence:

1. Using your mobile device
2. Use the SafeArrival Website
3. Call toll-free number 1-844-434-8116

Patrols:

Our School Safety Patrols are volunteering to ensure ALL students and community members are able to safely cross our busy streets on the way to and from school each day. Please assist us in ensuring the safety of ALL by picking up and dropping off students in designated parking areas.

There is NO STOPPING near the crosswalk on Strathmillan Road or in our school bus loop.

Discovery Time:

Please note that Discovery Time is back for another year.

Location: Library

Time: 12:00 - 12:30

Start Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Parents/guardians are required to complete a permission form prior to the student attending.

School Photo Day:

School Photo day is October 23th. (Mini Gym)

Halloween:

The Halloween Parade is October 31 @ 1:30 PM in the Main Gym. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Integrated Arts (TIA):

TIA - Kindergarten to Grade 1 focus is Dance.

TIA – Grade 2 and 3 focus is TBA at this time.

TIA – Grade 4/5 focus is Graphic Novel/ Comic Life. (Nov 12 – 14)

Remembrance Day Assembly:

Please join us for our annual Remembrance Day Assembly which will be held in our gymnasium on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 11:00 AM.

Conferences:

Thursday, November 21 from 4 – 7:00 PM and Friday, November 22 from 9 – 11:30 AM.

Sam's Christmas – AKA Rock Paper Scissors:

Classroom Rock, Paper Scissors Challenge Nov 25- Nov 29. (One nonperishable food item = one life for RPS)

School Wide RPS Assembly – Monday, Dec 2nd @ 11:30 AM.

Sturgeon RPS – Dec 5th from 12- 1:00 PM.

Winter Concert:

Thursday, December 12th

6:00-6:20 pm Kindergarten Performance

6:40-7:10 pm Grade 1 and Grade 2/3 Performance

7:30-8:00 pm Grade 4/5 Performance

Important Dates:

Wednesday Oct 16 - Grade 4/5 students at Golden Gate for the Pier 21 Musical at 1:15 PM

Thursday Oct 17 - Jump Start into Kindergarten from 6 - 7:15 PM

Friday Oct 18 - Terry Fox Assembly at 10:50. Community Walk to follow

Monday Oct 21 - Bus Ridership for the whole school

Wednesday Oct 23 - Photo Day (Mini Gym)

Wednesday Oct 23 - Discovery Time @ 12:00 in the library

Friday Oct 25 - No School / My MTS PD Day

Admin Report – Bev

Our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Stephenson comes to Strathmillan from Crestview Elementary School. Crestview has been a Hub School for Deep Learning for the past 7 – 8 years. Bev is very excited to bring this program to Strathmillan and will be co-teaching with classroom teachers.

Deep Learning at Strathmillan School 2019-2020

Beginning in November, students at Strathmillan School (K-5) will embark upon some school-wide learning experiences to focus on this year's school goals for

Collaboration and Critical Thinking.

Our classroom teachers are constantly facilitating rich learning experiences in classrooms that engage students in topics and problems that ignite curiosity and wonder in their areas of interest. In order to build on the Deep Learning that is happening in classrooms, teachers will be collaborating with Mrs. Stephenson once per cycle to focus on teaching and practicing the 6C's of Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Character and Citizenship. Students will learn how the 6C's help them to be the best learners they can be. Their understanding of the 6Cs will be consolidated through use of rich literature and provocations to push their thinking and fun challenges to practice new skills. Students will regularly work in groups in order to practice necessary life skills for collaborating effectively with their peers. Rich tasks and challenges will help them to build skills for thinking critically which includes Growth Mindset thinking such as being comfortable with making mistakes and trying again!

Deep Learning is an SJASD Divisional focus. We currently have plans in the works to collaborate with other schools to increase our rich learning opportunities with others. Students will collaborate within their classroom groups, with other student in our school and will have opportunities to collaborate with students within our Family of Schools.

The C of Character is something that teachers have always known is important. They know that students need to feel safe, secure and comfortable at school in order to

participate in meaningful learning activities. We now know from neuroscience that a sense of belonging plays a huge role in learning and in the protection against stress. The emotional brain works with the thinking brain which thrives when we have a sense of belonging which in turn help us feel accepted and that our contributions matter. Anxiety and stress are parts of everyday life. Our goal is to build protective factors for our students early so that they have strategies for dealing effectively with emotions and setbacks. We want all students to feel safe and comfortable so they can contribute in meaningful ways both academically and socially every day. For these reasons, we believe in building resilience by focusing on the importance of kindness and self-regulation. Tools that we use at Strathmillan school to ensure our students have the needed skills and strategies to be kind, calm and focused learners are the Zones of Regulation and Mindful Moments.

The Zones of Regulation strategies help students understand their emotions and how to deal effectively with them. Learning to self-regulate is also about slowing down our bodies and our emotions in order to stop and think and make good choices. A way to practice slowing down, focusing and doing the right thing is to take a Mindful Moment which focuses on self-regulation and kindness. With deep breathing strategies, students are learning to calm their bodies so that they can calm their minds, so they can focus and learn and be kind! We are very excited to get started on our school-wide plans for building these important skills for everyone.

"A focus on the 6 C's immunizes and protects against social and emotional difficulties thus building positive mental health and resilience..."

Dr. Jean Clinton

p. 22 Deep Learning Engage the World Change the World
by M. Fullan, J. Quinn & J. McEachen

Dr. Jean Clinton is a Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster, division of child psychology.

Treasurer Report – Felicia/Cam

The current account balance is \$1500.00.

Last year's fundraisers:

Glenlea Plant sale in May - \$2700

Shelmerdine's Poinsettias - \$1500

Colouring Books in June - \$600

Mabel's Labels - ongoing

If we keep up with the current fundraisers we will be able to fund the usual projects at the school.

Fundraising Programs

Shelmerdine's Poinsettias:

Sandy and Heidi will be running this program this November. Is there anyone else who would like to help co-ordinate?

Sandy will launch the program in the first week of November. Pick up will be the first week of December.

Glenlea Plant Sale:

Sandy and Heidi will be running this program May 20-21, 2020. Is there anyone else who would like to help co-ordinate?

As Sandy has been running the Glenlea fundraiser for the past couple of years, she would like to pass this project on to another person. It would be helpful to have a new point person work with Sandy this coming May in order for Sandy to pass on her knowledge of the program.

Colouring Book:

Does somebody want to run this program? Do we want to revisit the Grade 5 yearbook? Last year's parents were surveyed and only 50% were interested in buying a yearbook.

Mabel's Labels:

This is an ongoing program. Anytime someone orders from Mabel's Labels and selects our school, we get a portion of the profits.

New fundraising ideas:

San Vito coffee – Catherine Lamouroux will contact San Vito Coffee Company to find out if we can run a coffee fundraiser alongside the Shelmerdine's fundraiser for those families who would prefer not to buy plants. Coffee would also make good holiday gifts.

Mom's Pantry – this ideas has been raised a few times. Perhaps this program could run alongside the Glenlea plant sale as an alternative for those who do not garden.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 pm.

Bev Stephenson and Heather Palmer will present on Zones of Regulation.

New Business:*Fundraising Project –*

6 foot tall climbing wall in mini gym. Cost would be between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Some cost would be covered by school division, but the rest would have to be covered with fundraising through Parent Council.

The last few years Parent Council has allotted a certain amount for year-end field trips. These funds could be diverted to the climbing wall. Heather will submit a proposal at the January Parent Council meeting.

This will be an item for next year's budget. Heather will get 3 quotes which need to be submitted at the end of November.

Patrol Safety at the Strathmillan Crosswalk –

There is a no-stopping zone at the Crosswalk leading to the catwalk connecting to Beaverbend. Every day there are cars stopping right next to the crosswalk, sometimes on the crosswalk. This is not safe for anyone crossing as well as the patrols.

Heather will place pylons in this space to ensure cars do not stop there anymore. If this persists, Tara White, our school Constable will be contacted. Heather will also be sending letters out to families to remind them of safety regulations.

Remind –

We will ask the office to send a remind notice out for next meeting to give parents and caregivers another reminder to attend Parent Council on November 19th for the Zones of Regulations Presentation.

Adjourned – 8:16 pm.