

The Stewart School Parent Council Meeting

October 17, 2022

Attending: Cara Dean, Emily Verhoek, Tracy Smith, Kristen Roy, Melissa Licari, Melissa Kirk, Stacie Dowdall (Principal), Amy Long, Kristi Stead, Lea Doxy (Vice Principal), Tracy Pretty

Regrets: Nikole Green

Principal's Report

- **Swimming Lessons**

The first round of swimming lessons have begun for students, at the Perth Pool. Mme Diak, Mrs. Sharpe, Mme Lewis, Mme Premachuk and Mrs. Bell's classes. Went October 4th through to 19th.

Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Moore and Mme McDonald's classes will be the second round of students for lessons. Going October 20th through November 4th.

Final group will go November 8th through to the 23rd.

There have been some difficulties in the change rooms with students being silly. Teachers monitor from the door but cannot be in the change rooms with students. Students are reminded to quickly change for swimming and to go out on the pool deck.

Jump start did not fund swimming this year for grade 4's as in previous years.

- **School Pictures**

Photos are done. There were some mix ups with proofs. Pictures should be sent home this week.

November 4 is retakes date. Stacie is requesting feedback re: Edge Imaging photo company. Some parent council members voiced disappointment with the company and suggested trying another for future years. Stacie shared there is a three year contract with Edge which ends this year.

- **Hot lunch**

Hot lunch ordering has moved to online through My Family Room. Some expressions of concern about online charge to put in an order. These are the lowest fees out there to make online orders. The benefit is a reduction of processing time for the administrative staff. The paper orders, cash and cheques were very time consuming.

- **Upcoming events**

Hallowe'en Oct 31. Students are welcome to wear their costumes to school (no masks or accessories). No inflatable costumes – too distracting in class. Parents are welcome to send in treats. They must be peanut free (or allergy free if there are specific dietary needs in a class).

Hallowe'en Walk Some teachers still require volunteers to help with the walk to Lanark Lodge

Book Fair Dec 5-9. Volunteers are needed to run the book fair, set up, schedule it for sales and sell. It coincides with the holiday concert. The book fair will be open before and after the holiday concert to allow for holiday shopping. Proceeds from the book fair go towards the school library.

Holiday Concert Dec 9 Kindergarten AM snow date is the Monday (Dec. 12th). Grades 1 through 6 performance will be December 21st in the afternoon (Snow date would be December 22)

Indigenous Learning Dave Laviolette has presented to four Grade 6 classes re: Indigenous teachings

Bill Montgomery, a local Knowledge Keeper will be attending the school Nov 3 for Treaty Recognition Week, presenting to grades K-6.

Progress Reports go home Nov 10. IEP reports will go home Oct 18.

Treasury Report

Treasurer Nikole Green is absent today. Noted that a cheque from the Perth Fair fundraiser has not yet been received.

Old Business

- Cross Country – report from Melissa Licari regarding the success of the event
- Terry Fox run/walk – report from Cara Dean. Sept 20. Raised just over \$1050 for Cancer Research
- McDonald's Corners Fair – there were many crafts submitted this year. Report from Kristen Roy. Next years theme will be Honey Bees
- Outdoor Classroom – report from Emily Verhoek. Shared questions developed for school staff survey. Stacie will share a distribution list of teachers contacts at school to share the survey with teachers. The Perth and District Community Foundation due date for proposal submissions is the end of this month. Stewart school is not considered a charitable organization, which need to be to apply. Are tax exempt. May need to find a partner organization to pair with to be able to apply for the grant. ? The Table or another Green organization. Plans for the shelter have been obtained from the existing plans the town used for the shelter at Conlon Farm. Should reduce red tape because permits are already approved. Emily has kindly offered to do some mock ups of the outdoor teaching space.

New Business

- Chocolate bar fundraiser. Thursday this week need help to sort and send home boxes of chocolate bars. Families were asked to opt in or out for sales. Tuesday next week will need help to organize money from sales. Please message Tracy or Kristen to volunteer. There are some fun prize draws for students who participate (drone, basketballs, giant chocolate bars, ear buds etc).
- Breakfast with Santa. Tuesday Dec 13 this year. Usually coincides with a PJ day.
- Christmas Choir – Cara Dean will be organizing the Christmas choir. Nov 8 practices begin at school. Grace Armstrong will play piano. Dec 10 at 10 am is the performance at Crystal Palace.
- Children’s Christmas Shop. The school will be looking for donations again for items children can purchase for family
- Fundraising ideas – coffee shop/bake sale in lobby
- Donations to the Table – train decorated boxes to be filled with non-perishable food items. Idea of having admission to the concert be one food item. Each class decorates a box for the train.
- Angel tree – usually do 7 or 8 angels between the 14 classes
- Idea for a parent council table at the book fair to enlist more involvement
- Stewart school clothing – Stacie reports she needs to get new price quotes. Plan to keep it simple. A hoodie option, tshirt option, maybe a toque option. Will compare quotes from Elite Engraving and Pro-decal

Sports

- Volley ball will be starting up soon
- Intramurals will continue for grades 1, 2 and 3
- Cross country continues for those children who qualified for the Upper Canada Cup in Brockville Oct 26

Next meeting: Monday Nov 21 at 6:30 pm via Teams