

The Stewart School Parent Council Agenda

Monday January 16, 2023

6:30pm via Teams

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Attendees: Kristen Roy, Nikole Green, Tracy Smith, Vicki Adrain, Christine Jones, Cara Dean, Stacie Dowdall, Lea Doxey, Emily Verhoek, Tiffany Burrill, Tracy Asselin, Kelly Reid, Kristi Stead

2. Principal's Report - Stacie Dowdall

- Looking for donations of boots, snowpants, coats, hats, mittens. Will send this out in the next parent email, but bringing it to council. If anyone has items their children have outgrown, please drop them off at the office. Students are NOT coming to school dressed for the weather!!!!
- Book Fair; ran for three days, parents could access after school or before/after the Kindergarten Holiday concert. Proceeds go towards books for teachers' classroom libraries, as well as the main library
- Breakfast with Santa; Council event. Staff feedback – wondering if we should do four sittings next year instead of three???? Put the tables in groupings so the whole class could sit together at one long table. With three sittings, we needed the ends of every table to have enough space.
- Choir at Crystal Palace; very well received in the community. Large group of students went.
- Holiday Decorations; focus on being more inclusive of other Holiday celebrations – ordered a variety of books for the library about different celebrations. Front display case had information about winter solstice, Hanukah and Kwanzaa. Mme MacDonald's classes made ornaments for the tree that marked a number of celebrations which were then explained on Facebook.
- Kindergarten Holiday Concert; short and sweet, well attended. All kinder parents received a link to the video
- Grades 1 – 6 Holiday Concert; busy, but went well. Gym was full, but not overly so. Parking out back went well. Some parents lined BOTH sides of the bus lane in spite of directions not to, and that was a bit tight.
- Grinch Visits; focus on kindness. He checked out the students from afar (roof), then students earned hearts every time they were 'caught' showing kindness. Once the chart was full, the grinch came for classroom visits. Snow day unicorns?
- Holiday Shop; Proceeds were directed to the Table (\$877)
- Food Drive; 15 boxes; waiting to hear our total weight
- Volleyball; sent a junior girls' team, and a junior boys' team to SF family of schools tournament. New experience for the students as this group has not had the opportunity through Covid. We JUST had enough boys to form a team, and was solid interest from the girls. We did have some behavioural difficulties with the boys; we need to do some work on sportsmanship before the next event.

- Giant Map from Canadian Geographic, one side of the gym- Ontario provincial parks, First Nations territories, cities, roads. Explored by a variety of classes.
- Snowshoes for gym; now that we have snow, students will be going out for gym and using the snowshoes. Not necessarily every day.
- Upcoming Events
 1. Junior Basketball: Girls' and Boys' teams for students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. Sign up happened today (Monday). If students were away, they can come to the office tomorrow or Wednesday to sign up. During sign-up, we met to set expectations around behaviour: ANY inappropriate behaviour on the yard, in class, on field trips, etc. will result in removal from the team. Still finalizing details, but thinking about holding Girls' practices on Day 1, then Boys' on Day 3 for a few weeks until we make cuts and get our numbers down. We had 29 boys sign up and 19 girls, so to have both groups in the gym right now is not safe; and will not allow the coaches to get a good look at all the players. Once teams are formed, we will move to joint practices (like we did with volleyball) on Day 1 and Day 3.
 2. Intramurals for students in Grade 1, 2 and 3 will be held on Day 2s: announcements are made at 2:45, inviting the specific grade and sharing the sport that will be held. If we are short staffed, we sometimes need to cancel intramurals.
 3. Daniel Richler indigenous storyteller presentation, January 26 for Kinder to Grade 3
 4. PD Day Wednesday, February 1
 5. Frances Bajdik-Bova from Skills Ontario will present to grade 1-6 classes February 6 about career in trades
 6. Report Cards go home February 16th

3. Treasurer's Report - Nikole Green

\$9,575.12 (\$5,814.50 chocolate and \$2,145 Perth Fair Gates)

4. Old Business

Breakfast with Santa Review -Tracy Smith

- Success
- lots of volunteers,
- happy kids,
- \$38.96 only cost,
- Next year 4 seatings so each class and sit at one table,
- next year more grills going (this year was 2 cooks with 3 grills),
- Fire department handed out pencils, stickers, etc.
- pictures not sent out yet – Stacie will remind,
- Sparky was a hit,
- great to have the community members like the fire involved

Choir at Crystal Palace - Cara Dean

- Had professional sound system and heaters
- Thanks to volunteers
- Great turn out
- Christmas writing contest – number of classes participated, published in Lanark Era,
- Legion Speech – different grade levels, competition

Christmas Concert feedback (parking, child pickup)

- Super cute
- Kinders were hard to see on the floor
- One complaint that risers not used for the grade 5 so couldn't see back row
- Great using the back pavement for parking

Stewart clothing

- Elite was great to deal with
- Online ordering – only students can do, staff can't
- This was embroidery – do we want to do that next time or screen?
- All were great quality and colours
- Price difference if silk screen – only a couple or few dollars less
- Maybe do a Spring order

Volleyball tournament

- Lots of learning for the sportsmanship

Outdoor Classroom survey results - Emily Verhoek

- 12 staff completed survey
- Will use survey results to inform mock ups
- Next steps – Emily make up mock-ups of potential outdoor classrooms
- Emily present at a staff meeting her resources on using outdoor classrooms

5. New Business

-Upcoming sports (how parent council can help)

- Big help having parent volunteers in to help with practices and at the tournament
- Highschool volunteers?

-Maple Syrup Fundraiser

- Orders through Wheelers website
- Orders open March 6-20
- P/U at school Monday April 3
- Prize: for every \$10 of maple sale one ticket into draw for free taffy for their class

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday February 27 6:30pm hybrid, no child care