

## Mary Johnston Public School

### School Council Meeting Minutes – Oct.19, 2016

#### Upcoming Meetings

**November 19<sup>th</sup> and January 18, 2017**

**Meetings are at 7pm in the library**

**Childcare is available starting at 6:30 pm in the adjoining Kindergarten room**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Principal's Update  
Shared past happenings and gratitude for such an engaged teaching staff and parent community.

#### Ideas:

There are so many activities going on at MJ, install White board/Bulletin Board 'Announcements and Things going on at school' board – take a picture of what is happening and potentially tweet/send it out so students don't miss activities

#### Progress Reports:

- November 14<sup>th</sup> progress reports go home, Teachers currently working on them
- November 18<sup>th</sup> the PM is set aside for interviews – teachers and parents can request interviews
- The report is progress only for gr. 1-6, not related to achievement, an early look at what direction children are going currently – progressing very well, well and with difficulty
- **Action:** K. Bileski to check with ITS about how current the phone list is posted on the website

#### Communication:

- Ongoing communication between teachers and parents on what is going on in the classroom, parents should always feel free to contact us
- Official means of communication is the School Day website, other information posted on the mjp.wrdsb.ca and twitter @mjpwrdsb
- Inquiry based learning has been going really well
- **Action:** K.Bileski to send out Sept/Oct newsletter
- Parking
  - o Still problems with parking, to be addressed by newsletter
  - o Developmental education classes are now staying at school all day, and are the last to leave and first to arrive, parking in lot and in designated bus zones is interfering with buses
- Hiring Regulation 274 – Teacher hired for 4/5 class, Ms. Kristen Good

- 400+ students added in the board this year, 32 new classes added in September
  - Job posted for Dev Education Coverage for maternity leave
  - Character Education:
    - Mrs. Hutton & Shantz, Mrs. Bileski on committee; decision to switch up the program this year; weekly class meetings are now a priority, C
    - Character Ed committee working in conjunction with SCIS committee
    - SCIS (Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools) meeting on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> to look at Spring Survey Data
    - planned speakers/events for school i.e., Sara Westbrook
3. EQAO Update:
- One time testing in Grade 3 and 6
  - They want to look at how we can use the results - how can we explain them in a positive way to the students and how to use the results in the future
  - Reviewed the results for Grade 3 and 6 – all three subjects
  - K. Bileski involved with Kristin Phillips at the Ed Center on how to improve how we teach mathematics
  - ‘Number strings’ is one new procedure on how to teach some math skills to children, Improve teacher efficacy, Number strings in every class, Problem solving embedded with the computational work, Close examination of the EQAO questions and how to apply them to all classes
  - Edugains.ca – good website resource for parents and teachers, inquiry about information about number strings and how to communicate information to parents on how they are being taught in the school, how parents can help at home
  - \$1000 grant for Math night – need to establish who/how to organize math night, potentially an outlet for parents to help and get involved
4. International Exchange Students
- Lon and Jessie – International Students visiting from Oct.17-21 from Holland, visiting Madame McCarthy and Mlle Richmond’s classes, visiting and helping out with reading and writing, enjoying their time at MJ
5. Treasurer’s report
- Nothing new to report, new budget hasn’t been rolled over as of yet
6. PIC update – Jill Magazine
- WRAPSC and PIC explanation for new council members
  - PIC
    - Many sub-committees for involvement, ie. Safe Caring and inclusive school

- Another channel for parents to be heard about particular issue that they may be concerned with at their school
- Full day workshop in the spring for parents – parent engagement and student engagement
- Board is putting on a Parent Digital Citizenship day in November (Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 2pm), Free and childcare provided
- Twitter – PIC is committed to posting on twitter, follow to get more information about school activities
- WRAPSC
  - Looking for new members
  - Ranging from K-Grade 12
  - Meetings at Forest Heights high school
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month – meetings, 6 in total
  - November meeting will be at the school board, tour of school board, superintendents may be present
  - Potential topics: Bullying, School board budget, etc.
  - Good resource for parents to understand what is going on ‘behind the scenes’
- 7. Other
  - Next meeting – Combined classes discussion – K.Bileski,
  - Turkey dinner - motion to be put forward to donate to Rockway P.S. whole school dinner
  - Board Strategic Plan and SIPS/ Well being

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 PM

## **Mary Johnston      Principal's Report October 2016**

It continues to be a busy fall with an incredible number of events and activities: Meet the Staff, Used Book Sale, Coffee and Kleenex, School Council Meetings, Terry Fox Run, MJ Food Bank Fun Run, QSP Magazine Sales, Spirit wear sales, Coat and Winter wear Drive, Seusical auditions and Kodaly Choir, Running Club, and Soccer Intramurals, Me to We club and We Day!

Students are engaged in many different learning opportunities as teachers prepare to gather data for Progress Reports. Progress Reports are not an evaluative grading of their work, simply an indication if learning is developing well, with difficulty or developing very well. Reports go home on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Parents will have an opportunity to meet with teachers in the PM of the PD day Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting at this time is optional, teachers will request an interview where warranted, parents can always request to meet.

Watch the twitter feed for great examples of learning in many different classes. Teachers are communicating with parents in many different ways, Planner, Twitter, newsletters, websites and School Day. If there is something you want to know, please always feel free to connect with your child's teacher. Students are engaged in many wonderful inquiry based learning experiences, hopefully they are coming home and sharing their excitement; especially about the chicks that hatched in gr.2/3!

Teachers are working on:

Character Education: our team has paired up with the SCIS committee. We are exploring some new activities to embed teaching character traits. Instead of a monthly assembly, we are looking at in-class opportunities to have a combination of teachable moments, picture books that support a trait and weekly class meetings where students have the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns as well as good news items.

Our SCIS committee is looking at the data from the Spring Survey. We will meet next week to talk about the data and develop next steps alongside the Character Ed committee.

Gratitude and Growth Mindset!

**Achievement:**

EQAO results are available online. The links will be published in the Sept/Oct newsletter.

A one sheet summary with details is provided for this meeting representing the results in percentages and the number of students achieving at each level.

Overall findings:

- in general, our students are achieving at level 3 and 4 in all areas
- by grade 6, there are more students achieving at level 2
- almost none of our student are achieving at level 1, including students with IEP's

Next steps:

- our teachers are dedicated to learning about the Ministry of Education's Math strategy
- we have site based learning days dedicated to Math
- during site based learning we will focus on what daily comprehensive math looks like in each grade, meaning that each lesson becomes a combination of number strings (deep understanding of quantitative aspect of numbers), and embedded problem solving opportunities
- knowing that our students need more exposure to the format of the EQAO test
- developing common assessment questions based on EQAO sample questions , for all grades, not just grades 3 and 6; all teachers own the assessment.

**Lon and Jessie, students visiting from Holland.**

Lon and Jessie are high school students in a three year English stream program. They are in year 3 where they have the opportunity for a language placement in an English speaking country. Lon lived here with her family for 3 years and was a MJ student! She is happy to be back, the girls are currently staying with the McMurdo family. They are at MJ for one week and will write a reflective paper on their

experience here. While here they have been based in Mme. McCarthy and Mlle. Richmond's classes, while visiting other classes. They are reading with students and generally helping out wherever they can! They would love to be here tonight, but were given a pass to head to a hockey game.