

September 19, 2022 - School Council

Welcome and explanation of how Council works for new Members: Overview of what Council does, voting vs non-voting members-confirmed voting members, past fundraising ideas, what fundraising supported, etc.

Meet the Pack: Went very well, great attendance and eager to get into the school. Teachers were very welcoming and informative. Fun outside, food trucks were busy, candy jars were popular, free freezies, etc. Parents liked the early Meet the Pack date too!

Coffee and Conversation: Meet and Greet for new families. Families enjoyed it. Nice for new families to get to know each other.

Teacher Report:

Great start to the year-almost pre-pandemic! If someone is sick, stay home from school. Extra cleaning and ventilation is happening. No cohorting. Woodlot and climbers are open. Library, washrooms, gym are all back to normal (additional air filtration in the gym).

Curiosity Cube was here Sept 15-16th for J/I students.

Mr. Woodhouse doing two days of outdoor ed in our woodlot soon.

In-person parent teacher interviews will be available.

Welcome assembly last Friday for the first time. Very exciting!

Picture day with individual and class photos last week.

Queen's funeral was discussed, in different ways, depending on the grade level.

Home reading exchange is happening every day (Gr 1-3) and started today (Kindies will start in the next few months).

Terry Fox Run this Friday. Can donate online or bring a toonie.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30th.

New: Lunch helpers have started in primary classes. Student announcers have started this week-Gr 7-8 students. Gr 7-8 touch football started at lunch.

WRDSB Strategic Plan online-achievement, human rights and equity, social-emotional learning / mental health well-being, transitions and pathways.

Cyber attack is still impacting our Board. If you need to get a message to your child, call the school, don't email teachers directly with any changes of plan, as they don't always check email during the school day. If your child has an appointment during the school day, come to the school 15-20 minutes early. Sue will call the classroom when you arrive, don't expect them to be ready and waiting for you in the office.

Feel free to reach out to your teachers by email. Don't be afraid to ask your child what they are doing. Be specific with what you're asking and you are more likely to get a helpful answer.

Gr 7/8 Community building camp at Camp Ka-Wa-Y September 30th.

"Reading Week" in late October being organized by Susan King and Tonja Hansen-Klinck.

Question: Is Wolf Pack starting up? (Student Leadership Group) Answer: Grade 7/8 teachers will be discussing this in the next month or so, when things settle down.

Principal's Report

345 students, 41 staff

Review of COVID protocols and safety measures that are still happening.

Meet the Pack was great and nice to have informal conversations with families.

First assembly was exciting for students. Mrs. Schneider and Mrs. Reynolds headed up a slideshow with trivia about the teachers.

Mr. Sallesky's Message to Students:

1. Be respectful-self, peers, teachers, environments, school building.
2. Do as you are asked.
3. Do your work.

Message to Staff:

“Know Your Why” - Be purposeful and intentional with your teaching. Know your students. Build relationships with your students.

School Learning and Improvement Plan (SLIP) - Phillip is considering inviting Council to join our SLIP and share what the Right to Read report has given us. Every student has the right to learn to read. How do we change/modify/adjust how we teach our students to read? Book Club “Shifting the Balance” for our staff. Kids need to be orally speaking and listening better before they can learn to read. Science of Reading approach.

Question: Will teachers be teaching phonics to older students now too, if they are struggling? Answer: We will create individualized plans for students who still need support, using the SOR approach. This would be done by the classroom teachers, and/or our SERTs/EAs. Even the simplest conversations with students should be extending their vocabulary. Think: What kinds of questions should I ask to extend their vocabulary? Listening comprehension has a direct impact on reading comprehension.

Question: What’s the thought on planners? Answer: COVID restrictions in the past, weren’t ordered last year, as we didn’t know restrictions for this year. Phillip is considering an Invitational Parent Night to find out how parents can use Google Classroom for due dates.

Question: When and why was the playground closed for use before and after school? 8:15-8:30 supervision-legally our responsibility starts at 8:15, so we are liable if students aren’t adequately supervised. Prior to 8:15, your child can go on if you are supervising your child. We used to have two people on supervision, now we only have one. We can’t have parent council volunteers offer to supervise. FDK uses playground from 2:20-2:50. They are supervising a large group of students already and do not want any additional children or parents blocking sightlines. Extended day uses the playground after school and the same reasons apply for the after school time period.

Question: What is our school’s position on Halloween? Can we make it “Dress Up Like a Character in a Book?” Phillip doesn’t think we should do a whole school Halloween “thing”. If individual teachers want to do a Halloween activity, they can, but it shouldn’t be the entire day. We want to be equitable and inclusive to all families. If parents want to send students in a costume, he is okay with that. We may link in a “dress like your favourite character” spirit day with the book week, the following Monday, but this hasn’t been confirmed yet. Additional Question: What if one kid’s teacher has a big dress up celebration, but the other sibling’s teacher doesn’t. When you say it’s equitable and inclusive, leaving it up to the teacher, doesn’t make it equitable and inclusive. Answer:

Teachers know their students. They will know if it's inclusive for their class to dress up. Phillip's message to teachers will be: "Don't just make it Halloweeny" all day. Something we may consider are games within divisions and students can join the room that suits them the best.

Upcoming Events:

-Movie Night is back: ACF license (newer movies) \$400 for the year or Board's Criterion license: older movies 6:30 start, admission is free, buy and sell candy at intermission. Past concession sales bring in ~\$150 per movie. Need to decide what the movie will be ASAP. Movie option links will be emailed to Council to vote.

Woodlot is open-lots of thistles. If you come and cut, put thistles in the dumpster garbage or take it with you in yard waste bags. Still have woodlot funds to spend. Munch N Mulch -volunteers and children to spread mulch on a Saturday morning, then pizza lunch as a reward. Would like to have it done in October, if possible.

Pizza Lunches - will discuss next month once School-Day is running.

Budget:

Karen (Treasurer) still needs to meet with Sue to determine what expenses still have to come out of the current budget.

In the October meeting, the budget will be set and fundraisers will be decided.

Primary playground will still be safe for another 10 years. Phillip will have to decide if we want to fundraise for a J/I Playscape, new Primary playground, etc.

In the past, Council fundraised a lot and developed a big reserve and didn't spend it. The focus continued to change and parents were questioning what we were fundraising for. We are trying to be more purposeful in our fundraising and spend it on the current year of students, so they benefit from their fundraising. Council would like to have pizza and milk start soon for Gr 1-8 students.

Determining Council Executive:

Chair-Ann

Treasurer-Karen

Secretary-Brittany