

## School Council Meeting - Preston Public School

November 22, 2023

\*In lieu of the typical virtual meeting, it was decided that this month's updates would be shared electronically due to a limited number of items on the agenda.

### Agenda:

#### Teacher/Principal Updates - Marc

- Our **Mad Science** after school program began on November 1 and will run until December 20. We have a total of 26 students signed up from grade 1-6
- Mad Science also ran our **Family Science Night** on November 7. Thanks to School Council for supporting this family event. It was very well attended and the family theme appears to resonate with our community
- Many **clubs** continue to emerge as a result of student interest. Examples include: basketball, choir, STEM club, Yahtzee club, virtual game club, dance and soccer
- **Staffing:** our vacant grade 1/2 position has now been filled, thanks to the last posting which was offered as a contract. Details are being shared with the parents/guardians of that cohort via School Day. Ms. Rebecca Haddaway has settled into her long-term occasional teaching position, while Mrs. Cross (Gr. 1A) is on leave. I will continue in my interim role here at Preston as the recent wave of hires could not fill all of the vacant administrator roles. It is now likely that I will remain here for the balance of the school year
- We have once again joined the **Cambridge Fire Fighters Basket Fund** food drive this year. Families are now welcome to send non-perishable food donations until December 8. Our friends from the fire department will pick up the food on December 13 for redistribution to local families in need. The class with the most food collected has been offered a pizza party!
- We are awaiting final approval from our Facilities and Grounds department for the purchase and installation of our three **fitness playground components**. It is expected that the equipment will be installed this spring
- Our music teacher, Mr. Peats-Bond, has secured a spot for our choir to sing Oh Canada at the KW Titans Basketball game on Sunday, January 21. I would like to make a request to have the bus covered by School Council funds to transport the choir and their parents/guardians to and from the game. The approximate cost would be \$250
- Staff are having discussions about a holiday concert in the last week of school. We would have a dress rehearsal for students and then invite parents for a daytime concert. Details will be shared as soon as plans have been finalized
- As this is the last meeting before January, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday as well as a happy and prosperous New Year

#### Financials - Marc

- Financial Services has informed us that a new 2.9% charge is now being imposed on all funds collected in cash or online. This includes fundraisers, charitable contributions (Terry Fox Run, Jump Rope for Heart, etc.), field trips, etc. Our current understanding is that this fee had previously been covered centrally but is now the school's responsibility
- Bingo account: \$13,775.83
- Fundraising General account: \$12,158.56

Lunch fundraising account:	\$ 21,728.41
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<b>Total balance:</b>	<b>\$47,662.80</b>

**Upcoming dates:**

- Nov. 24: Photo retake day
- Dec. 13: Food donation pick-up date for Cambridge Fire Fighter Basket Fund
- Dec. 20: Last Mad Science after school program date
- Dec. 25-Jan. 5: Winter Break
- Jan. 19: PD Day
- Jan. 21: Preston choir singing at KW Titans game

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 6:30-8:00 PM