

School Council Meeting - Preston Public School

January 24, 2024

Attendees: Marc Lehmann, Krista Vandongen, Lindsay Marynewich, Lindsay Warner, Leena Birtch, Janet Lam, Liz Hambleton

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions - Marc

Teacher/Principal Updates - Krista/Marc

Krista's Teacher Update:

- Lots of new students across different grade levels!
- Kids love the gaga ball pit, even in the snow. Lots of fun outdoor recess is being had with the snow!
- Character Day was today. Lots of students (and staff!) in different costumes.
- Clubs: Hockey, volleyball
- Some classes (Gr 2 and 5) will be snowshoeing as a field trip funded by School Council.
- Random Acts of Kindness will be the theme around the school at Valentine's Day.
- School applied for a grant for two new exercise bikes to help regulate students.

Principal Update:

- Staffing: Mrs. Samerah Jeewa started in Grade 1/2 and Ms. Son returned from leave this past week.
- Our two EA program students from Conestoga have returned to continue with their placements (in ACE and K3 Mondays and Tuesdays). We also have another Conestoga student placement from the Management in Community Services program who joined us this week.
- Teacher negotiations update: All information is public but summary is that there are some fine details that need to be worked out but ETFO has come to an agreement.
- Academics: Term 2 begins on February 1 with Term 1 reports going home on Feb. 16.
 - Staff is looking to start up the Strong Start and Home Reading programs again. Strong Start will need some trained volunteers and possibly new resources. Staff are requesting \$1,000 for new books to update our books.
- Facilities: Playground equipment update is that purchase orders have been provided to Blue Imp by us for the materials and delivery (deposit) and the Board has also submitted theirs for the work in the amount of approximately \$7,000. The breakdown will likely be approximately \$10,000 from the School Council and \$7,000 from the Board.
- The Communications Department helped to develop a new panda logo. There is the option of creating a web store that can sell spirit wear and sports wear on behalf of the school.

- Staff applied for the Rotary Club of Kitchener Grand River grant proposal to purchase 2 stationary bicycles: one for junior students and another for primary students. These would be used for body breaks have been found to be very effective for some of our more energetic students.
- Kindergarten Registration has begun for students born in 2000 (entering JK this September). Corrie Lane has begun making appointments for parents to complete the process in person. A Welcome to Kindergarten Information Night has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 from 6:00-7:00 pm.
- Marc is working on updating the public calendar on our school website so that all special events at the school are posted there.
- After a four-year hiatus, Public Health will resume the implementation of the ISPA (Immunization of School Pupils Act). Reminders have been sent to households in the fall. Suspension date would be Wednesday, March 27, 2024. Administrators will receive updated lists at the end of each school day.
- Clubs are continuing. The PHL (Preston Hockey League) just began and students are already asking about another soccer club which Marc will be running outdoors once the snow melts. On Sunday, the school choir, led by Mr. P-B sang 'O Canada' at the KW Titans game.
- Mr P-B and School Council were going to apply for a MusicCounts grant, but School Council funded the purchase of new xylophones. Marc shared a video of kids enjoying and learning.
- The staff had a team meeting this afternoon. They are developing groups of teachers to create "Dream Teams" that would come together to collaborate on different aspects of school life to develop. One main idea is supporting character development.
- The winner of the Cambridge Fire Fighters Basket Fund was P2. They will be enjoying their pizza party next week. The total of items collected was 981 for the entire school. Many thanks to Mrs. McIntosh and the Grade 6 leadership team for their work with the Fire Department.

Budget/Fundraising - Marc

Budget:	
Bingo:	\$14,902.35
Pizza:	\$22,840.91
Fundraising General (Chocolate Bar):	\$11,744.04
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Total:	\$49,487.30

*The moneys for the playground equipment has not yet come out of this

PRO Grant Update -Lindsay

- Lindsay submitted the grant application and we will find out by Feb 12th if we've been approved. We are expecting to be approved. We also received \$500 through the Ministry of Education to go towards our Art Night.

Art Night Update -Lindsay

- Our Art Night will welcome siblings as well and we will be encouraging families to arrive with ample time to paint their pottery pieces.
- Will we offer mural tiles to siblings as well or keep it for only students of the school? We will think about it and revisit the next meeting.

Any other business?/Q & A

- Do we need to do more fundraising this year? General consensus is that we don't need to raise more funds at the moment and we can take a break (for the Council and the families involved). If we need more funds or if there are specific fundraisers people are interested in, we can readdress. Sharon is looking at card boxes and spring seeds. We don't have something specific to fundraise for at the moment, so we will focus on next year.

Upcoming dates:

- Feb. 19: Family Day (school closed)
- Feb. 23: Grandbridge Energy presentation for students (Energy, Electricity and Conservation)
- Feb. 28: SK vision screening
- March 6: Family Art Night 5:30-7:30 PM
- March 11-15: March Break

Next meeting - Wednesday, February 28, 6:30-8:00 PM