

John English Junior Middle School
SAC Meeting
January 14, 2015

Principal's report – Mr. Craig Howe

We have been experiencing very cold weather of late. Please ensure you dress your children for the weather. (Mitts, hats, snow pants). The children do go outside for recess when the wind chill is at a reasonable level. Mr. Howe monitors the temperature to ensure it is favourable for being outside.

Recent Staff changes:

Madame Easton's ECE (French speaking) left in October, and after some challenges in finding a French speaking replacement, has now been replaced with a new ECE.

Ms. Biancini is currently on leave. Miss Carmichael is replacing her.

Mr. Bedrosian is returning from leave and will replace Miss DiMarco (Grade 7 French Immersion).

French immersion application process is now closed. Extended French is open until Jan 29.

The fire alarm rang today but it was discovered that the alarm was raised in error by onsite construction workers. Mr. Howe sent a call out to families letting them know it was a false alarm.

On February 17, an internet guru named Paul Davis will speak to students during the day about internet safety. This will be followed by a presentation at 7:00 pm for parents. This will be sent out by email from the school.

There was recently a workshop with the JE teachers on teaching students about effective questioning. There are materials available to them and this will help students in a variety of projects and classroom discussion.

Vice Principal's report – Ms. Becky Jenkins

The school is working on a Green bin program. This program is being driven by Eco Schools. They suggest schools start small and then they can grow the program over time. John English will begin with Healthy Bites program where there is food waste.

As a co-initiative, the eco team will be introducing a litterless lunch program on Fridays. Students must take all their waste HOME with them; they cannot leave their waste at school. The team hopes that this will demonstrate how much litter is accumulated through packaging and waste sent in through school lunches. Hopefully it will encourage the use of recyclable containers, biodegradable snacks (such as fruit), etc.

Forest of Reading program: this program began just before the holidays. In the Grade 4, 5, 6 group, the French books were undersubscribed, so that part of the program didn't run. But on the English side there are 39 students enrolled. They have until the end of April to read five books and then they will be

able to vote for their favourite for the awards. The French books are still available for the classroom for teachers. The program will expand to the picture books and read aloud books for younger readers next week.

PALS – Playground Activity Leaders - there has been diminished interest over the winter months due to the difficulties with the weather etc. So, they will take a hiatus over the winter and start up again in the spring.

From Mr. Sylvester: www.duolango.com is a great site for studying languages.

Other good websites from Madame Smith: www.bonpatron.com and www.wordreference.com .

Madame cautions that students should not be using sites to translate work they intend to turn in for marking.

The school has begun work on the [Concours Oratoire](#). This is an annual French public speaking contest.

Skating has started and is going well. The Skating bank is looking pretty good. Sharpening needs to take place at the end of the skating session.

Intramural badminton will take place in two weeks for Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Reading initiatives are coming up to get kids excited about reading over March break.

Math Madness is also coming up.

Our annual ski trip is taking place on January 29. The grade 6, 7 and 8 students are invited to Snow Valley.

Question from parent: What are the Mimico Rangers? It is a school club with the ideas of Earth Rangers eco club specifically targeted for Mimico.

Study Hall: is open from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Mr. Sylvester's class (Room 228) for help in studies, or simply a place to do homework after school.

PIAC: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (Tina)

On Saturday, March 28, 2015, there will be a PIAC-SEAC Special Education Parent Conference 2015

8:30 am - 2:30 pm (Doors Open at 7:45 am for Sign-In)

Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue, Toronto ON

Registration is required; child-minding is provided by advance request

SAVE THE DATE - the link to register will be available soon.

The theme for the conference is EMPOWERING FAMILIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND NETWORKING.

The purpose of the conference is to empower students and their families by providing:

- Information about Ministry of Education policies and Toronto District School Board special education programs and services.
- Information about successful practices from TDSB staff, agency representatives, students and parents.
- Connections with other parents and school and community resource people to gain from their expertise and experience.
- Access to agencies that can provide key information on available resources and funding.

On Thursday, February 26, 2015, 6 pm - 9 pm there is a *School Council Appreciation and Information Evening*. It will be held at the Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto, ON M3J 2W4 416-630-8100

Please join us in celebrating the work and contribution of school councils/parents to the education system. The evening will provide council chair/parent representatives with the opportunity to: network with other School Councils, participate in roundtable school council talk sessions; and enjoy a wonderful dinner.

Note: Registration is limited to 2 parent/school council representatives per school. Contact Tina if interested.

Applications for Junior Extended French Immersion (grade 4 entry) are open until January 29. To enter the application website: www.tdsb.on.ca/pars

For further information on the PIAC or upcoming workshops and meetings, click [here](#). You can also sign up for the PIAC newsletter through the site.

Ukulele - Jane Chapman absent, no report

Fundraising – Tania Krishnan

Poinsettias – Thank you to Suzanne and Lisa. We raised \$800, slightly less than years past but certainly a respectable amount.

Chapters –We raised \$305 from the Flip program.

Sameco Toy Sale We made \$63. We are pleased with this as a first time fundraising initiative, which we hope will grow in future.

Pizza Day forms are out and are due on Friday. This will be once per month. First one is January 30th. Pizza only (bring your own drink and snacks). Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Liz Canrinus.

Healthy Bites

Snack Program will begin once per week (apples, granola bars) delivered to the classrooms. The snacks are for all the children in the class (the snack program is not restricted to Healthy Bites students).

The program needs volunteers. If you are interested, or know of anyone who would be interested, please contact Healthy Bites. We would love (and need) the help!

The parent council has a surplus that needs to be spent. There is some money left in the account that needs to be spent.

Financial Report – Terry Durette

Curriculum Night \$1050

Fundraising letter \$5025

QSP \$5619

The Dance-a-thon, Movie Night and Baskets still to come. \$9000 is budgeted to be received.

\$21800 is the total target for the year.

Last year's financials are CLOSED.

Upcoming 2015 fundraising dates were set: Dance-athon is still tba, Movie Night : Friday, May 8

Next meeting is February 11, 2015