

John English Junior Middle School
SAC Meeting
October 8, 2014

Principal's report – Mr. Craig Howe

- Thank you to those who participated in the Meet the Teacher night, which was very successful
- Thank you to those who provided email addresses to teachers to keep up to date with class happenings.
- Website and Twitter feed is kept up to date, be sure to follow
- Parents bringing students to school should drop them off at the front door and allow children to make their way to class rather than bringing their child to the classroom. This ensures safety in the school. It also creates independence for the students to find their own way to class.
- Volunteers that work in the school SHOULD have a police check. For periodic volunteerism (helping with skating day, etc.) Mr. Howe does not require this. However, for regular volunteers, it is suggested to have a check completed once and an offence declaration for any years that follow. To receive police check forms or to complete an offence declaration, speak to Karen in the office.
- In regards to attendance, please call the school if you know your child will be absent 416-394-7660 press 1. This expedites the absence process for the school, which needs to be done as quickly as possible. The process allows the school to identify children who are absent without their parents knowledge. The school is investigating an automatic calling system.
- Parent safety patrol is in need of volunteers to help
- Progress reports will come out on November 11. This report is an early indicator report (not a full report card). The parent - teacher interviews are November 13 (evening) and November 14 (morning).

Vice Principals report – Mr. Ashwin Parvatam

- PALS (student leaders) have taken part in a half day leadership training session to learn about how to perform their duties for the schoolyard. This will start after Thanksgiving.
- On November 5 there will be a seminar for families of children aged 10 to 14. The seminar will be addressing the issue of children who are home alone and teach them how to be safe. Registration forms can be sent to Vice Principal, Ms. Becky Jenkins.
- The "[Team up for Green](#)" initiative: Team Up For Green is an environmental initiative of Toronto Hydro in partnership with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) that encourages families to sign up for Toronto Hydro's conservation programs and paperless services. Participating schools will work together to raise funds towards the purchase and installation of 500 new bike racks TDSB-wide. At John English, this is being spearheaded by the EcoClub at the school. More information will be provided soon.
- Ms. Jenkins was away attending a Professional Librarians Conference and will be bringing new ideas and learnings back to the school.

- School safety patrol has begun under Madame Mazelet. Fifty (grade 5 & 6) children have been trained by Officer Rich of the Toronto Police Service. They will now be put on a schedule rotation to help children cross the street on the way to and from school each day.
- Lunchtime programs have begun this week.
 - Monday – Chess (50 pp)
 - Wednesday – Children’s Fun Factory (50 kids)
 - HP League of champions is starting soon.

Teachers Report (Madame Heather Smith)

- Cross Country 36 kids will be moving on to the Western Conference on October 16. Congratulations to all the children who participated!
- Previously used soccer/football cleats (size 4 – 12), helmets, skates are all needed. If you can send any that you would like to donate, please send them to Mr. Poyser. Thank you.
- The following programs have begun:
 - Young Women on the Move – Madame Trudeau and Madame Salama
 - Young Men on the Move – Mr. Poyser
 - Lego League - Mr. Bowen and Mr. Nunes
- French Exchange begins on Tuesday with 30 students from Institute Robin in Vienne, France arriving in the afternoon. They will attend classes at John English over the next two weeks.

Ukulele - Jane Chapman

The program, which is a recognized method (Doane Method) of teaching ukulele, is in its 5th year at JE. It is in 13 schools across the TDSB. John English was the second school to adopt this into our curriculum and we are in our 5th year. The music program is offered to every child in Grade 3, of which there are 70 this year. They learn sight reading, ear training, motor skills and they also sing along. We now have some students who have been additionally enrolled in the optional paid program for each of the 4 years following their free Grade 3 year.

Jane requested some additional money to increase the teacher’s pay due to the high number of students she is teaching (increase by \$250).

Also, she would like to request funds to provide additional teaching time for the most advanced group. This advanced program, which is partially funded by the families of enrolled students, provides a musical path as they develop and a success story for the program/school. As their abilities have increased, separate teaching time is required (due to varying levels of competency between the groups).

Healthy Bites

217 students are currently registered in the program hitting capacity

- 113 Grades 1 – 5
- 104 Grades 6 – 8

New fridge and freezer is on the list to purchase this year. This will come from the Healthy Bites budget.

As a result of the Curriculum Night drive, the program now has 10 new volunteers, THANK YOU! We are still looking for more volunteers, the more the better. Please email Healthy Bites.

Remember, on the first Monday of every month, there are cookies for sale as a fundraiser. 50 cents each

Book Fair – Melanie Boyd-Brown

Scholastic and the school will run an English and French book fair November 10 – 14. This fair raises money to support the school library with current materials. Madame Salama is responsible for running the fair. There are a group of parents who provide the volunteers for the fair. We are looking for volunteers during school hours. There will be an email going out from the SAC. Please email if you are able to help. Please help support literacy and your SAC. Thank you!

There was a conversation about creating a book swap in addition to the Fair. Due to the difficulty with inventory control, it has been decided that it cannot happen at the same time. However, there have been some inter class book swaps taking place in classes and of course, donations are always welcome to the teachers. Please send any books you wish to donate into your child's teacher (English or French).

Financial Report – Terry Durette

Terry Durette gave a review of the budget, which outlined expenditures versus the funds raised. The SAC has a healthy surplus in the bank currently, which needs to be allocated.

Discussion ensued regarding the under and over spending in some areas against last year's budget to determine how to adjust the budget for the upcoming year. Mr. Howe went over his wish list of items that he would propose the SAC consider. These will be reviewed, prioritized and more voting will take place during the November meeting.

Voting for the \$250 for the teacher increase for Ukulele - Majority of votes FOR

Voting for the \$700 for the teacher cost for the advanced class – Majority of votes FOR

Fundraising – Tania Krishnan

- Fundraising contribution - \$3000 has been collected so far. Envelopes are still coming in, so the number is expected to rise.
- QSP is currently underway
- Poinsettia fundraiser will start in November/December

Tania described "ongoing passive initiatives" in the budget which are fundraisers whereby companies who approach the school for special sale nights (Samco), product for purchase (Chapters/Indigo) with a benefit going to the school fundraising account. These are being considered, as well the communications plan for them. Watch e-news for more information.

Pizza lunches were suggested as an option for fundraising. Volunteers would be required to run the program, although the SAC is supportive. If you would like to run a pizza lunch, please contact the SAC.

Community Information –Tina Kim

From the Parent Involvement Committee (PIAC): a school volunteer is being sought for Vice Principals interviews for the TDSB Full training is provided on October 20th at TDSB headquarters at 5050 Yonge Street. Contact SAC if you are interested.

The Return to Learn program at the TDSB headquarters held a forum on Concussions at 5050 Yonge Street. David Kim (Parent) is hoping to bring this subject to the school as an evening seminar. More information will be provided.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at 7 p.m.