

Student Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Principals Report

- Dance-a-thon was a very big success, thanks to the volunteers (parents and teachers)
- “Once on This Island” musical was a two night initiative, and it was incredible (there were a total of six performances) for the community and for other schools. There were comments from the staff that it was one of the best musicals John English JMS has ever produced.
- May 26 is “Bike to School” day. Information is going to go home from the school soon with respect to bike safety. There are new bike racks and lots of spaces to lock up bikes. (Even along fences if necessary).
- The Parent Volunteer breakfast is coming up: invitations will go out this week or next week. It will be held on June 5th 8:00 am – 10:00 am in the cafeteria.
- EQAO begins May 26th and ends June 5th. As the track and field meet falls within the EQAO testing period so some adjustments have been made to the schedule.
- June 6th is a PD day.
- Question from Mr. Howe re: Curriculum night: would the board be interested in doing the pizza etc. sale. It is Thursday, September 18th. The SAC agreed to put something together.
- There will be a second vice principal starting with the school in September.

Teachers Report

- The Grade 7 & 8 math contest was written this week in the cafeteria
- The Grade 5 & 6 math contest results will arrive soon
- May 22 – Jump Rope for Heart
- May 26 – Safety Patrol Fun Day
- May 28 – Spring Concert will feature Grade 6, 7 & 8 band and strings and the Ukulele group.
- Grade 3 and Grade 6 classes visited Storefront Humber: they took raffle baskets, they read stories and performed for the seniors. There is a need for tea, coffee, tetra-pak milk, bus tickets, etc. Madame Laruccia is hoping to put together a mini food drive for the seniors and take some items down to Storefront Humber. This helps seniors who are unable to get out to buy their own items.
- Thank you for your support for Scientists in the School. It was a tremendous event that the students very much enjoyed.

School yard clean up: Saturday, May 31 9 am – 12 pm

- Spring planting and school yard clean-up will take place on this day. The school yard committee is looking for volunteers to help (everyone welcome, no green thumb required!). Hats and gloves will be provided, as well as garden bags.
- Looking for plants if anyone wants to donate. Thank you!

School yard Toys

- The toys have been popular with the kids. Mr. Murray will purchase some new items and Mr. Howe will take care of the payment. This initiative aims to make use of our new sand pit and to provide some separation between age groups in the school yard during busy times.

Grade 8 graduation

The awards and the decorations are paid for by the SAC. There are about 20 awards handed out in addition to diplomas. The ceremony runs from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, followed by a reception in the courtyard. The students then go to a dinner and dance at a local banquet hall. Some discussion ensued regarding the choice of location for the grad trip. Mr. Howe explained that it was a decision made by the Grade 8 teachers.

Healthy Bites

On June 6 registration forms go home for the lunch program for next year. Registration is open until the 20th of June or until capacity is reached. The forms will be available on the SAC website. Capacity has been reached for a few years in a row now. The program is open to Grade 1 – 8 students only.

Ukulele Program

The students in Grade 3 get the program during class time. Once through the Grade 3 program, they can join the extra- curricular program. Jane Chapman has had some professional praise regarding the JE program. There is a fundraiser coming up at “The Rockpile” for ukulele students to perform for parents and friends. There will also be rock musicians performing with the kids and some professional entertainment. Melanie Doane Group A will also come to play with our uke kids. Tickets are available on the SAC website. Please spread the word Sunday June 1st: 5 – 8 pm. \$15 adult, \$10 children. Family of 4 is \$40. The extra-curricular program will be offered next year if funding is given by the SAC.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast – Friday, May 30th

Joan Raymond is organizing the Staff Thank You breakfast. We really need volunteers as well as baked items and other food items in an effort to say thank you to the teachers and the staff of John English who work so hard over the course of the year for our kids.

Dance-a-thon

We raised about \$6133 at the Dance-A-Thon, which once expenses are paid will total for the SAC about \$5000. The DJ was impressed with the children, who were well behaved and appreciative. A great day! The winning fundraising class was Ms. Cosgrove’s class.

Fundraising

\$22 000 is the fundraising total for the year (approximately) which is very close to our fundraising goal. The various events as well as the one time donation request have all been equally successful. These

initiatives are designed to collect funds for our various contributions (Healthy Bites, Ukulele, classroom supplies, Grade 8 Grad etc.) at a various giving levels and opportunities for families.

Grant Proposal by the SAC

A proposal is being put together for the “Parents Reaching Out” grant, for speaker sessions on “Attitudes and Concerns around Mathematics”. The proposal is due Friday, May 16.

Some of the local schools are preparing proposals on the following subjects:

- How can I help with homework?
- “How can I talk so my kids will listen”
- Anxiety
- Lice population

Playground Activity Leaders (P.A.L.S.)

This is a playground leadership program for schools that encourages all children to participate in activities during recess breaks. Students are trained and run the activities. A Public Health nurse comes to work with the children and teachers (train them how to run the activities). They also focus on children who are sometimes not included or shy to get them involved with others. There is a side aim to address behaviours in playing together, etc.

SAC seeks feedback

Marie would like to send a survey to the parents of the school to see if the SAC is meeting their needs. This will be an opportunity to receive feedback from parents (anonymously) about how the SAC can serve the public better.

There will be a presentation at the first council meeting in September; Tina Chan- Kim which will outline the responsibilities of a parent council in schools. Tina is a parent at John English who also served as Parent Council chair at Sir Adam Beck.

Upcoming Events in the Community

- Party in the Park will take place at JE on Tuesday, June 17
- Parent Involvement Committee Conference: May 31 at Earl Haig School
- June 5th Sir Adam Beck Parent Reaching Out grant recipient will hold a session at the library with Paul Davis on cyberbullying. This is a free event. 7 pm – 8:30 pm. Child care is provided.
- Ward Forum – Thursday, May 22 from 7 – 8:45 pm at Norseman JMS Library – Child Anxiety Expert: Suneeta Monga of the Anxiety Clinic at the Hospital for Sick Children.
- All Candidates Meeting – Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 to 9 – Lambton Kingsway JMS

Next meeting: September.

Happy summer everyone!