

John English Junior Middle School
SAC Meeting
November 12, 2014

Marie welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

There is a ward trustee email blast (Pamela Gough) that is available, so a sheet was handed around for those who are interested to sign up. If you are interested, click on the link on [Trustee Gough's website](#)

Principal's report – Mr. Craig Howe

- The progress reports were issued to the children this week. Interviews will take place over the week. Craig suggested that parents write questions down so they can make the best use of their time with the teacher.
- [Bullying Awareness week](#) is the week of November 17. Some of the students are working on presentations for assemblies next week.
- French Immersion information night will take place on the week of November 17. There will be a visit to the classrooms and a question and answer period to follow. Some grade 6 students will be in attendance to give some perspective of the program. Extended French information night will take place in January.
- Some students in grade 6 French Immersion will take part in educational research with [OISE](#).
- University research is being conducted into how students select a secondary school based on household income range. Letters went home to the Grade 8 students last week. All of this research is optional and is for the purpose of improving processes.
- An “automatic call out” process is now in place. If your child has an unexplained absence, there will be an automatic call go out to the parent listed as the first contact at 9:45 a.m. Please listen to the entire message so that you can properly answer the question (you need to confirm at the end of the message). If the call is unsuccessful, there will be repeat calls attempted up to three times. Three unsuccessful calls are considered an “unconfirmed call”. If there is an unconfirmed call, then the office will make an in-person call. The system is excellent and has greatly reduced time to manage absences. Secondly, there is now a call for latecomers to school. This goes out at 6:15 p.m. each day.
- The book fair was open for parents on Thursday night and Friday morning of parent interviews. The money that is generated as profit for the book fair helps the school buy more books for the library.
- On Tuesday, February 17, [Paul Davis](#), a professional speaker and internet expert is coming to the school to speak to the kids about Internet safety. He will also be speaking at the school in the evening for the parents. Save the date!

Vice Principals report – Ms. Becky Jenkins

- The Toronto Public Health Nurse was at the school to present a workshop, helping parents and kids to be home alone. 9 parents and 10 children attended. This workshop was made available by a grant to the school.
- TDSB and Hydro – [Team up for Green](#) project. If you are a Toronto Hydro customer, you can sign up for e-billing, as well as signing up to obtain a device for your water heater etc. For every customer that switches over to e-billing, \$8.00 from Toronto Hydro will go towards bike racks for the TDSB. The John English eco-team (and the equity team) is spearheading this project at the school. Please sign up and let your teacher know so that the eco-team can count you as part of John English! *Currently John English is in 2nd place in the schools!*
- [The Forest of Reading](#) Program which is run by the Ontario Librarians Association is being introduced at JEJMS by Ms. Jenkins. JEJMS will participate in four reading programs focused on children in Kindergarten up to Grade 6. Children read the books in their program/age group which range from picture books to chapter books/fiction. Students vote for their favourite book (once they have read the series). The author of the chosen book in each category will then win a very prestigious award in May at Harbourfront. There will be a letter going home for those interested and wanting to participate. The books will be available in the library.

Board Business

The parent council is running a surplus from the past school year. At this meeting a discussion took place concerning how best to allocate the funds. Importance was given to items that were recommended by Mr. Howe and the school staff through the faculty meetings. A vote took place and the following items were passed by those present.

- \$500 for updating the skating program (skate repair and sharpening, new helmets and skates)
- \$1000 Musical Instrument repair (band and strings program)
- \$3000 Mini iPads for kindergarten classes (used as listening centres, cameras and teaching tools)
- \$600 Sporting team uniforms
- \$2000 - Books for library (French and English)

Fundraising – Tania Krishnan

Tania and Terry gave an overview of the fundraising to date for the 2014/5 school year.

- \$4500 Fundraising donation cheques
- \$5745 QSP
- \$1000 curriculum night bake sale

Our next fundraising initiative is the poinsettias program. Order forms will come home on November 26th. The flowers will be delivered to the school on December 3rd.

There will be [Samco](#) Toy school fundraiser for John English the week of November 19 to the 30th. 10% of sales come back to the school. Happy shopping!

[Indigo Flip](#) continues...gift cards purchased online can “flip” a donation back to the school. Please consider buying gift cards through this program if you have a need for them.

Thursday, December 11 – Christmas Concert

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at 7 p.m.