

DPAC Monthly Meeting: 16th September 2010

1. Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new parents.
2. Approval of Minutes from meeting held June 3rd 2010
 - a) proposed Sheena
 - b) seconded Shannon
3. Approval of Agenda
Anna asked that Lice Check be added.
 - a) proposed
 - b) seconded
4. Correspondence
Laura read out a card that the PAC received from the staff thanking us for providing class funds and for the summer breakfast.
5. Bulletin boards.
Bulletin boards have been relocated as a result of renovations.
The PAC bulletin board is located outside the office.
The Community bulletin board is outside the girls washroom – please check with the office before posting anything on the Community board. A second community board at the entrance to the junior playground.
School bulletin board is located in the main entrance.

What the PAC does

Laura asked the Executive to give an overview of what DPAC does throughout the year:

6. Fundraising
Sheena described our 2 major fundraisers each year – magazine drive and entertainment books – both running during September. Magazines drive online runs through to June.
Other fundraisers are community events - Craft Fair, bingo nights, dragon gear, hot lunches. We also apply for a gaming grant every year.
7. Community Partners
Suzanne provided a list of community partners to date. Participation is easy – in most cases it's as simple as letting the vendor know you are from Doncaster. Then our school get a percentage of net sales. Some examples of community partners are:
 - Thrifty smiles cards – 5% back on net sales.
 - Cobbs Bread (Shelbourne Plaza)
 - Soap Exchange give us 10% back – although not used heavily at the moment.
 - Sports Trader bucks
 - Campbells labels more info to come.
 - Villages pizza also give us a discount.
 - We also recycle ink cartridges and cellphones – the dropoff box is located in the library at the moment.All of this adds up and give us opportunity to purchase fun equipment for the kids
8. Parent Resources.
The parent resources area has moved into a different part of the library, but is easily identifiable by it's luminous shelf stickers. It works on an honour system – sign resources out or email Karen.

Donations to the parent resources would be appreciated – current / recent books/articles/dvd's only please

Other good resources for parents are the school website, the school sign and the bulletin boards.

9. Environmental

iWalk Day and Safer Schools program

10. Clubs Charene

Charene described our two lunchtime clubs:

Craft Club – Monday at lunch – no start date yet. Leanne needs some volunteers to help supervise the sessions. Number of sessions etc, will depend on number of kids attending and the number of volunteers.

Dance club – for G1-3 – every week from Thanksgiving until February Star Search. Boys and girls are welcome. No start date yet.

We would also like to run a Chess club at lunchtimes – we have the equipment – and are actively seeking a parent or volunteer who can play.

11. Health and Safety

This covers lice check and emergency kiosks.

a) Lice check: Anna runs Lice Check and explained that as we are proactive lice are not a big deal at this school. There are 3 organised lice checks planned this year. If all is well we will stick to that, but if we get bad results then we will add more checks. Lice check relies on volunteers – the more volunteers we have the quicker it goes – with Anna aiming to get through the whole school in one morning

Prevention is really important so volunteers try to chat to each child re: sharing headgear, what lice are, etc. They are also there to give advice if necessary.

Reminders will come home in backpacks and via class reps – dates to follow. It is ideal if parents can let kids know in advance that Lice Check is happening and give them a rundown of what to expect – mums will be at school looking at hair, lice are insects and not dirty, etc.

Volunteers are much appreciated, ideally 8 or 9 parents.

b) Emergency Kiosks. Irene stocks an emergency kiosk to supplement the school earthquake supplies on behalf of the PAC. Irene purchases 2 granola bars per child + water. Peanut free requirements are accommodated. For adults/teachers she purchases protein bars. In June, we take the supplies out and distribute them during Fun Day.

c) There is also a school Health and Safety Committee that meets monthly and is organised by Laurie Cairns. School earthquake supplies (shovels, tents, portapottys etc) are located in sheds in teachers car park.

12. Annual Events

Laura ran through a list of annual events that the PAC put on for the school and community:

- Welcome Back dinner.
- Walk to school days/weeks
- Movie nights
- Craft Fair, bingo nights
- French folk dance troupe – family dance night
- Spring Fair – on hold at the moment.
- Year end dinner dance
- One or two parent education nights throughout the year.

Old Business

13. Math Mania No date yet – hoping Jan Feb.

New Business

14. CPF Membership Drive Audrey

Audrey introduced Canadian Parents for French. It is a membership-based parent organisation providing info and resources for non-French speaking parents. CPF Victoria hosts and funds French events throughout the year for kids and families. An important part of their role is advocacy – national, provincial branches and local chapters advocate at their level of government for French language programs.

Membership costs \$25 a year or \$60 for 3 years. You can sign up at any time. Membership Drive is on from now until end of Oct – during this time you can win prizes, plus 90% of fees come back to local chapter. For every new membership – 80% of that 90% comes back to school. Last year \$280 was given to the library for the purchase of French books.

There will be a table at the Welcome dinner and more info in DPAC newsletter. More parent volunteers are needed to help with events. If you think you can help with this, please contact Audrey.

15. Welcome back dinner

Michelle reminded us that the Welcome Back Dinner is next Thursday starting at 5pm. Come for a quick casual dinner, then go inside see classes and meet the teachers/other parents. Lots of orders are in already.

16. Class Reps

Shannon is the class rep coordinator. The class rep system is simple and provides a good communication network. One parent per class collects email addresses and then forwards information from Shannon re: school events, class happenings etc. Over half of the classes already have reps. If anyone would like to find out more, please talk to Shannon.

17. Thrifty Cards

Cheryl will be at the Welcome Dinner with Thrifty Cards.

The Smile Card program means that we get a portion of every dollar spent at Thriftys using one of our Smile Cards. You have to load the card before your groceries are checked through – you can use credit card, Airmiles card, debit, etc to load the smile card, so can still get those benefits.

Cheryl keeps a register of details so that you can cancel a lost card if you need to.

Last year we got c. \$1500 through the Smile Card program and we have been approved again this year.

18. Stream of Dreams

Sheena has organised Stream of Dreams this year, which will run on 27, 28, 29th of September..

Stream of Dreams is an education program that introduces the school to local watershed and streams that flow (or used to) through the area.

Each teacher signs class up for a session. The class is given a presentation, then each child paints a fish. On the 30th the fish are installed on the fence outside the school by Stream of Dreams staff. Parent volunteers will also be needed on the 30th – we need to have 6 people (in shifts) to help during the course of the day.

19. Safer School Travel / Iwalk

iWalk is worldwide program encouraging kids to walk/bike to school. Oct is international walk to school month. Oct 6th is our school walk to school day – walk, park and walk, car pool, cycle, etc. PAC sets up a bagel station in the dropoff. Watch for info in newsletter – volunteers will be needed.

20. Craft Fair

Alaine organises this annual event. It is a huge community event and lots of crafters look forward to participating. This year it will take place on Nov 27th 10am-3pm.

Costs for a table need to be agreed, esp in light of new gym. Alaine will be emailing crafters on Friday.

\$5 discount on table rental for Doncaster families. Tables can also be set aside tables for kids. Some classes take a table to raise money for class activities

21. Volunteer Opportunities

There are always lots of volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Requests for help will come out in the PAC newsletter and via Class Reps. Laura outlined some things coming up:

- a) Class reps
- b) research and apply for playground grants
- c) emergency kiosks
- d) bottle depot
- e) curtains for portable stage.
- f) Craft fair, bingo, movie night, welcome back dinner
- g) BCPAC, CPF, VCPAC reps
- h) SPC – elections in Nov.
- i) Lice check
- j) hot lunch days
- k) library shelving
- l) teachers sometimes request help

22. PAC Cupboard Clean up

Tomorrow afternoon – cleaning out cupboard and move stuff to servery. Volunteers appreciated

23. Cobbs Bread

Charene told us that Cobbs Bread – one of our community partners– called up and donated goodies tonight because we are part of the Dough Raiser program. Thank you Cobbs!

Committee Reports

24. SPC – The SPC assesses the School Plan and the District Plan to see how they fit together. They look at data from foundational skills assessment exams, surveys etc and make sure school goals are being addressed.

Elections for School Planning Council will take place in November.

25. Treasurer's Report

Budget is on the website outlining what we are spending this year.

Gaming grant has been confirmed, but not cash in hand yet. Amount allocated is based on enrollment from previous year.

Principal's Report.

26. Mr Hansen noted that in the first staff meeting teachers raised how important communication with parents is.

27. Scent Free School

Helena explained that the staff would like to pursue a Scent Free School policy. Rather than addressing a specific problem, this is mainly to raise awareness - lots of students and staff have asthma, respiratory problems, unexplained headaches, etc. It is a lengthy procedure and parents will be involved in the process.

28. Renovations

Some things remain to be finished. Any comments are welcomed – positive or negative – there is still a short window to fix things. Smart boards has not arrived yet – we are expecting 1 for library and in 1 classroom.

There is no date yet for an Open House – this is to be coordinated with the School Board and Ministry VIPs. The school will organise the Open House and will liaise with PAC dates are confirmed.

29. Art Starts

Art Starts are community based performances. PAC is supporting 3 performances this year. Laurie confirmed that Story Theatre is booked for Feb 17th.

The other 2 acts have no firm dates yet, but will be One Woman Circus and The Kerplunks.. Performances are open to parents too.

30. Sports Teams

- a) Cross country– 8am Wed and Fri, G3-5, Mr Strickland. First cross country meet is next Tuesday at Clover point.
- b) Some parents noted that they were not aware that cross country had started. Staff explained that if a child goes to practice then they get a memo. It has also been mentioned in announcements. Can't just show up for races – have to attend some practices.
- c) Soccer will be starting soon with Mr Knoke
- d) There will also be another sports team – unconfirmed at this point but possibly Badminton,.

31. Assemblies

Doncaster has a tradition of recognition assemblies. This year they are changing slightly to be based around school values. The first recognition assembly will be on November 1st and will recognise Responsibility. This will be followed by Creativity on Dec 7th. Every child will be recognised at some point throughout the year..

32. Terry Fox Run is next Friday, organised by Mme Gustafson. Info will come home in backpacks asking for donations.

33. Mr Hansen reiterated how pleased he is to be here at Doncaster and how much he is looking forward to getting to know kids and parents over the years. Any questions please come and see him .