

## DPAC Monthly Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010

1. Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new parents. Thanks to Mr Knoke and Laurie and James for coming.
2. Approval of Minutes from meeting held September 16<sup>th</sup> 2010
  - a) proposed Scott
  - b) seconded Dawn
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a) proposed Brianna
  - b) seconded Katherine
4. Correspondence  
The PAC received a card from Mme Ewald and her class to thank us for organising the Stream of Dreams program.

### Old Business

5. Entertainment Books  
Reminder that if you have not returned books yet, they are now overdue. Sales are down, so keep trying to sell as many books as possible.
6. Class Reps  
Div 8 is only class with no class rep at the moment, with a few candidates in the works. System is working well, with info emails being sent out in good time.
7. Welcome Back Dinner  
Thanks to Michelle for organising the dinner. It was very successful, and worked well indoors! The new menu went down well.
8. Stream of Dreams  
Huge thanks to Sheena for organising Stream of Dreams this year.
9. Safer Schools/iWalk  
iWalk took place this morning. Kids were very enthusiastic and there is lots of anticipation for the draw for flashing lights. Laurie said that new asphalt worked very well. Lots of new faces out biking and walking.
10. Craft Fair – Alaine  
Ads have been placed. Alaine has been inundated with forms. If you want a table for your family or class let please let Alaine know asap.  
James noted that table bookings need to be finished up extra soon – changes to District cartage system means that it will take longer to get the tables here. Margo is working on that with Alaine. We have a volunteer to coordinate the signage and Suzanne has volunteered to be co-coordinator for the concession. We are still looking for a volunteer co-ordinator too – which involves slotting volunteers into an existing schedule.

**New Business**

11. SPC Elections at next meeting

SPC is a legal entity which meets several times a year. It develops, monitors, and reviews the school plans and Provides advice to the school board about, education services and programs in the school and matters contained in the district achievement contract relating to the school.

There are currently 4 members, at least 1 position will be coming up for election in November. It is a fairly minimal commitment – 3 or 4 times a year – and at training session usually takes place in November. If you would like to submit your name or nominate someone, or have questions, please email the PAC at [dpac.doncaster@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.doncaster@gmail.com).

12. Tumble books

PAC pays for online subscription to this service. Charene will publish a reminder, including username and password, in every newsletter. James noted that Tumblebooks is a very good service and we want to make sure it is well used.

13. Servery Supplies

The PAC cupboard has been cleared out and kitchen items moved to new servery. We now have a list of things we would like for the servery which includes everything from spoons to coffee maker. If you can provide any equipment, please let us know. The more we collect, the less we have to buy. The list will go out via class reps too.

14. PAC Cupboard

Thanks to James for the new shelving. There are 4 boxes of old paperwork – minutes from the 60s onwards – that need to be dealt with. We are looking for a volunteer to weed through the documents and identify stuff that is worth keeping.

Ian has volunteered to scan everything that remains – as long as it is staple free and tidied up first. James confirmed that the school does not yet have an official archive, but staff are thinking about how to deal with school history, for example digitising information.

Laurie suggested a digital frame to show off some archive material. Ian suggested a flat screen TV would be an option – and multiuse – and would fit nicely in the new entrance. It could also act as billboard advertising meetings.

15. Guest Speakers Budget

Laura explained that our current budget has \$2000 earmarked for guest speakers. We are seeking requests from staff, and particularly the school librarian. James will mention this at the staff meeting. The more children it would benefit the better – eg: multiple classes together etc. Requests please to DPAC at [dpac.doncaster@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.doncaster@gmail.com).

16. Committee Reports

- a) CPF: Catherine is currently working on whether to print a newsletter to go to all FI parents in district. So email or newsletter will be coming out in next couple of weeks. Laurie asked about possibility of grants available to host those things from CPF? Catherine will follow this up.
- b) VCPAC/BCCPAC – if anyone is interested we need people to represent us at district and provincial levels. We don't have a rep at the moment. VCPAC is more district level – for example they were very active in discussions around the 2 week spring break. BCCPAC is provincial level and plays an important role in funding/government level decisions. More details on the respective websites: [www.vcpac.ca](http://www.vcpac.ca) and [www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)
- c) Health and Safety. First lice check has taken place with good results. Emergency kiosks are filled. Laurie reported that a school inspection has taken place and that the school in good shape, with only a couple of things to deal with.

### Principal's Report

17. James reflected on the craziness of September. He recommended watching a 20m presentation by Ken Robinson – and English advocate for creativity in school – watch it at:  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html)

### 18. Renovations

Renovations are winding down. There are a few small remaining things: landscaping, line painting and some fencing. Missing speaker is being installed so should hear bell out front. Mme Simpson's classroom speaker is to be installed. Illustration of the new building is already on the website with an official photo to follow.

What are the lines for out front? Suggestions include for the skateboarders and the current favourite - principal helicopter parking! James told us that nobody knew until the architect explained – it's part of the architectural vision to break up the hard landscaping!

James is still waiting to hear re: open house. The Minister wants to be involved, no dates yet.

Shannon asked whether the cinderblock will be painted? James said No, it is part of the artistic vision.

Smart boards have arrived – one will be installed in the library and one in Mme Simpson's class.

Laurie asked whether skateboarders had caused problems for neighbours. James told us that the night custodian has reported that anti-skateboarding notches etc seem to be working. Laura has not had any word of disturbance via PAC.

### 19. Sports Teams

- a) Cross country is winding down. Parents are responsible for getting kids to the Beacon Hill meet. A car pooling notice will go out.
- b) Soccer – G5 – lunchtime practices have started with Mr Knoke and Mr Masuch. The Jamboree will be in October.
- c) Swim Club has started on Tuesdays. Numbers are improving. It is open to kids as young as 3.
- d) Basketball G4,5 – Team will be starting in November.
- e) Bucketball G3-5, lunchtimes. No start date yet. Easier for younger kids to play.
- f) Dance club starts Wed 20<sup>th</sup>. G1-3. Experience has show that older kids are less keen to start and tend to drop right off at the end when things become very busy. Nice for younger kids to have something specific to go to.
- g) Craft club will take place on Mondays – split into K-3 and 4-5, alternate weeks.

### 20. Assemblies

Our recognition assemblies this year will be built around strong values *Demonstrated at Doncaster* that support learning and young people who respect one another. Our first value is responsibility. Teachers will be discussing and watching for particularly strong examples of responsibility among the students for the recognition assembly on November 1.

### 21. Recycling/Waste Management

James explained that the School District is working to cut back waste. It costs the School District a significant amount of money to get rid of waste. Some strategies encouraged are sending garbage home, setting up recycling stations in schools and composting.

James asked - How does it feel as parents when school says garbage will be coming home? There was lots of response to this – some parents felt that it was a good thing to be responsible for your own garbage, and that it sent a good message. Others questioned whether this was environmental, or just saving school garbage collections. Still others objected to the “Banana Peel Problem” - yucky fruit coming back in lunch kits and making everything gross.

There was discussion around a number of options:

Worm composting: James noted that this is a lot of work to keep going. It is in place in some

schools and takes anything edible – meat, cheese, paper towels, etc. It is picked up twice a week, and processed in Cobble Hill, not onsite. Laura asked whether we could take advantage of Reynolds expertise in this area. Laurie noted that theirs was a complicated system and that there are limitations because of student age. In our case it would require more adult intervention. James thought that this option would require G5 leadership plus teacher sponsor.

Onsite composting: James explained that this again requires adult intervention. The School District will provide funds towards this though. If parent group wanted to take this on it would be supported - James can provide further information on what this program looks like.

Compost at school/recycle at home: James noted that it's as much work or more to do this split program. He favours full recycling at school or all go home.

Both teachers and parents thought this was as an opportunity to instill environmental awareness. However it will need leadership, teacher patience, parent help to be successful and deal with the inevitable fruit flies, mess etc. James noted that kids are generally very enthusiastic about doing this in school and love dumping that compost etc.

Suzanne pointed out that advice should go home covering stuff like the Banana Peel Issue – guidelines on what to expect and tips for packing lunch. She also noted that anything that cut down on time available for kids to actually eat was problematic and would have to be addressed.

Various people suggested a staged approach: Ian suggested that we start with garbage going home with a school wide program to follow; Dawn suggested that involving G5's first would be helpful as they act as ambassadors and lunch monitors etc.

James said that this was a conversation between staff and parents. He will talk about staging idea with staff, with sending home garbage as a first step and plans for Phase 2.

#### 22. Newsletter

James asked - What is most important part of the newsletter to parents? Suzanne said that the monthly calendar is by far the most useful thing, and most parents agreed with this.

Ian and Byron asked about the possibility of adding links to the pdf calendar pages that would upload into ical, google calendar, outlook etc.

Charene note that the sports announcements and what Grades they relate to is also useful.

#### 23. Power of Ten

Power of ten cards now available. \$5 per pack from the school office. Lots of information including rules, games and videos can be found online at [www.poweroften.com](http://www.poweroften.com)

#### 24. Technology

Ian asked whether the PAC could have a technology committee. This was met with enthusiasm. Ian and Byron had lots of ideas for discussion - flatscreens, LCDs for classrooms, calendar links, smartboard placement etc.

Byron has lots of experience with smartboard placement through his previous school in Cowichan. There, the PAC raised funds to have smartboard in every room. Lower placement is better for smartboards – ensuring that kids can get max use out of them.

James noted that we have relatively good computer resources, but keeping things current is a challenge and the school would always welcome more computer resources. The school does take advantage of corporate/government auctions, and PAC funded the last big server upgrade.

Laura noted that we have some contingency money in the PAC budget if this becomes a priority.

#### 25. Artwork

Framed artwork that came down during Renovations has been returned to the artist where a name was present. Mme DiShaw may have the rest, please contact her directly.