

Minutes - January 26 PAC Meeting

Joyce Huang and Simon Sun, PAC Co-Chairs

- Thanks to everyone for coming online!

Principal's Update - Ankie Carswell, McKechnie Principal

- **Enrollment** -current enrolment is steady – room available in Kindergarten but little room in other grades
 - Projection forms will be sent out to parents the week of Feb 1st for next year.
 - Choice program applications are open now
 - Option 4 (late November to March 1) almost 60 students still learning from home
- **Staffing** -Linda MacKenzie, in for Amber Logie, has taken a job at Roberts Elementary
 - Stavi and Sarah are new SSWs at McKechnie, covering for SSWs on leave
- **Health and Safety Covid Protocols Update** - All current hand washing, hand sanitizing, mask wearing, protocols remain in place
 - All students and staff are encouraged to wear masks at all times, this is encouraged but not required within their learning cohorts.
 - Updates Include:
 - 3 ply masks; VSB has ordered reusable ones
 - Updated Daily Health Assessment will be coming from the Ministry of Education and BCCDC in February for students.

Question: Why 3 ply masks? An extra insert can be added to them (by parents.) They are recommended by Theresa Tam as an extra layer of protection.

- **FSA and Student Learning Survey** - Foundational Skills Assessment will be administered to Grade 4 and 7 students between Feb 15 and March 12. SLS notification was sent to parents via the most recent newsletter. Parents can access it anytime between now and April. Ankie will send reminders. Students and staff will fill in SLS too.
- **Direct Drive - Thank you for...**
 - Digital Subscriptions – Science News, What in the World, Current4Kids, Canadian Reader
 - Author Visit – Janet Wilson for 5 Intermediate classrooms during literacy week
 - Outdoor classroom supplies – cushions, whiteboard or chalkboard
 - Teacher funds
 - Hokki stools for the classroom (Alternative seating; provide movement breaks.) Teachers are already asking for more. Parents also interested so Ankie will see if it's possible to buy in bulk!
- **Thank you from X'Pey elementary** - for the Holiday Hamper donations. London Drugs also donated lots of toys to X'Pey at McKechnie's behest.
- **Outdoor Classroom completed** - it's a lovely space to hang out.
- **Literacy week** - guest author spoke online to Intermediates Monday, Tuesday - Spelling Bee semi-finals, Wednesday - Dress up as your favourite character, Thursday - Spelling Bee finals, Friday - DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) pajama day
- **Pink shirt day** - coming up Feb. 24th. "Bully Free starts with me" t-shirt and mask (\$10/\$8) available on School Cash Online until Feb 1.

- **Individual Photos** - Artona has offered the opportunity to have individual photos taken at their studio. There is no sitting fee. Parents will receive an email notification once the photos are available online for purchase, usually within 48 hours. All individual photo orders will be shipped directly to the parent at home with a mailing fee of \$7.00. Ankie has asked the Account Manager to see if Family Photos can be accommodated at the same time. They will get back to her.

Ankie noted the District had notified schools that individual photo sessions at school are still suspended

Question: Could Artona come to the school and set up outside to take individual/class photos?

Ankie will consult her Director. In meantime, she is asking teachers to take class photos.

Ankie said she's wondering if she should put Artona proposal out to parents?

Question: Does this mean Artona won't come at all, even if restrictions lift?

We are still on Artonal's list. This is a way to work around VSB restrictions.

Question: How long can we wait to take photos before we need them for the yearbook?

Ankie will check with Paula and Ada.

Ideally, Artona will be able to come to the school. If they wish, parents can go to Artona.

Budget Update - Geoff Kennedy

Geoff - There are funds in Gaming Account. We should start thinking about how to use them.

Volunteer Update - Leah Collings

Leah said she and Naomi had been discussing having more of a welcoming system for new families. In the past, tea parties or social nights were held. We haven't done that in some time. Now we're noticing some families feeling disconnected. It's been especially difficult for new families to connect this year. Should we have Buddy families? A Welcome committee?

Question: Could class parent reach out? Make it an option for class parents since they weren't initially asked to do this? Maybe half would say yes.

Leah will reach out to class parents to check-in with class families and suggest an online social.

Other ideas:

- Have a virtual tea...
- 1 class per day could have after school playground time so parents could mingle (when restrictions lift)

Questions/Comments

Community Organizations (Kerrisdale Little League, Community Centre, Field Hockey) have asked Ankie to forward registration information to McKechnie families. Ankie will forward info.

Motion to pass December 8, 2020 PAC Minutes

Moved: Simon Sun **Seconded:** Leah Collings

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned 7:49

Next Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 at 7pm.