

# Devonshire School Council

**Date: 23 February 2016**

**1. Introductions and approval of agenda and minutes from last regular meeting.**

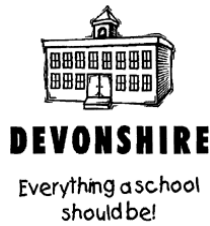
**2. Reports**

## **Principal's Message**

School Budget

December \$58823	1.	56% to Staffing <u>26% School Budget</u> \$48039
	2.	<u>14% Grants</u> \$8398
	3.	<u>4% School Generated</u> \$2386

1. 56% Covers staff absences  
26% Covers school items like paper towels, supplies, cleaners
2. The money is collected and allocated for very specific activities (Macskimming for example was a grant from the Ministry of Education). The amount does not carry over from year to year.
3. This money is collected from fundraisers like the milk program. There is a little more flexibility with allocating these funds - as long as the money is spent on students (and not staff) it can be used for several different initiatives.
  - there is also money received per student. Special programs bring in more funds for the school. The DSAP program for example means the school receives grant money specifically for that program.



### Renovations

The renovations are on track. The painting has been started and colours have been chosen. There was a meeting with the renovation team planned and started last Friday 19 February 2016. The meeting was to start talking about the move back!

Looking at the school from the North & South side, please note the grills on the windows of the 2nd and 3rd floors will be removed. The grills will remain on the basement windows. It was decided there was no purpose for having the grills on the windows at this point (they were installed in 1920). The grills on the basement windows will be new, as will the windows themselves. Within 5 years all the windows in the school will be replaced.

*(parent suggestion: post more pictures on social media. Many parents are wondering and excited. Decision: New photos will be added to the website and sent out on various social media platforms.)*

*(parent suggestion: hold a fall BBQ and open house when the school opens. Decision: School Council will discuss and set a date in conjunction with the Principal)*

### Specialist Rooms

There is a second floor room with a stage. This will be the drama/arts room for all students! Previously, there were classrooms that remained empty and unassigned - this affected funding for the school. Now, more of these previously vacant rooms will be used for student support, parent/family support and other causes. It removes wasted space and builds the community around Devonshire.

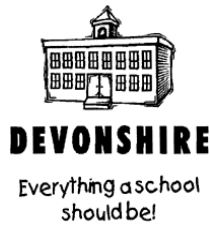
### The Walking School Bus

The walking school bus will be running for April, May, and June. The bus driver has been hired and has walked the route, which will be similar next year. There are twenty students signed on to participate this year.

### Traffic Study for Gladstone/Bayswater

There was an incident involving a student and family at Gladstone & Bayswater. As a result of that, and other minor problems, it is proposed that a traffic study be conducted to ensure student safety. The results will still be relevant next year when we move back to our permanent building.

*(Parent suggestion: The Bayswater Residents Association is petitioning for speed bumps along the road. Five speed bumps are going to be installed between Beech and Sherwood.*



Devonshire could piggyback on this study and initiative. A combined effort might be more productive. *Decision:* great idea. Council and School will collaborate. Will also include the City, OSSTA, and Safety Council).

### EFI Changes

The curriculum IS changing for the 2016/2017 school year. Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten will now have a 50/50 split between French and English instruction. All classes next year will be JK/SK splits with approximately 30 children in each class. Grade 1 will see a one hour block of math instruction in English. Grades 2 and 3 will see the same change.

This changes the make up of the school quite a bit and has caused anxiety and stress among the staff members. There is now a need to hire more English teachers, and not as much need for French teachers. Understandably, there is a lot of tension around these coming decisions. For example, there are currently two Grade 2 French teachers. Next year, the school needs one French teacher and one English teacher who will rotate classes. Each teacher will have to instruct more than homeroom subjects. This is the same issue for each grade.

### Projections for 2016-2017 School Year

We are expecting 317 students next year. Currently we have two of each grade, up until grade 4. Next year it is expected Devonshire will have four kindergarten classes, a Grade 3, a grade 3/4 split, Grade 4, Grade 4/5 split, and a 5/6 split.

### Coupon Book Fundraiser

The coupon books are available. Connaught has sold 90% of their allocation, while Devonshire has sold only 50%. Adding a link on hotlunches.net might assist, as well as sending another note home via backpack express.

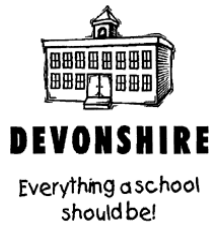
### Milk & Pizza

The second round of milk orders has gone out. The backlash on Facebook regarding the advertisement for Chocolate milk has been noted.

The second round of pizza orders will be going out shortly. This time an option to donate a slice will be made available for families wishing to do so.

### SLP Report (School Learning Program)

There are four styles of posters placed around the school, prompting students (and faculty and visitors) to question why they are doing things and what is the next step to be worked on. This is a multipurpose initiative. It gives students a voice and helps them understand why they're



learning something. If the student cannot answer, responsibility is put back on the teacher to clarify and assist. Devonshire wants students able to think critically and not be automated robot learners.

### End of Year Events

The school is trying to keep June sweet and simple in light of the upcoming move back to the permanent building.

Regarding Grade 6 graduation: the only day chairs were available for rent/set up was 27 June. Consensus among the Grade 6 parents is to keep this date for graduation. All grades are invited - except the kindergarten classes, who will have a play day. This will free up time for teachers to move back to the renovated building as well.

Dates for the upcoming events will be put on the school calendar and sent out over multi-media platforms.

It was noted that there was not enough food at the graduation last year. A committee will be set up this year to make sure enough munchies are provided. A parent liaison would be greatly appreciated.

The cost per student has not been calculated as of yet. Hopefully over the next few Council meetings, the grade 6 committee will have a monetary figure settled.

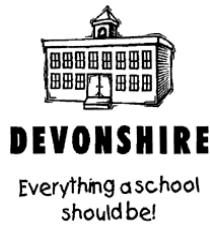
Question: Is there going to be a per-student allotment this year? Answer: the Grade 6 committee will discuss.

It was mentioned that School Council would appreciate receiving a formal proposal from the Grade 6 Committee and not "random" requests. Easier to price overall.

Note: The Family Dance is open to all grades, although the last hour is reserved for Grade 6 students and family members.

Claire, who organized the Friendlygram campaign, raised \$217 for the Grade 6 end of year trip! This is especially amazing since each Friendlygram was only \$0.25.

A big thank you to all who are helping with the upcoming MacSkimming trip. For those unfamiliar, MacSkimming is a two day, one night trip to explore nature. It will include activities



like studying ecosystems and animal tracks, a night time survival skills lesson and a hot dog lunch. It takes a lot of work to put together because it is an overnight trip.

### Staff Changes

Jackie is leaving Devonshire before March Break. She was offered a position at Half Moon Bay, which is better suited to Jackie and her family. The Devonshire community and School Council wish Jackie the best of luck in her new adventure and thank her for her dedication to our school! Interviews for a new school administrator will begin Thursday.

### **Teacher Message (Robin)**

There will be an outdoor play day for the kindergarten students this Tuesday. The rest of the school will have their winter Carnival on Thursday. Everyone is looking forward to the activities.

The snowshoes are a huge hit and a big thank you is given to Council for their purchase.

There have been many activities to vary the winter days. The kindergarten students enjoyed Yaki (who has been coming to entertain Devonshire students for many years) as well as Hey Buster! and an Inuit presentation (Dana's class). The grade 3 plays were performed as well.

Tablets for each classroom have arrived and are being thoroughly enjoyed. Science in schools will arrive in the coming days and will be presenting to all students. The Juniors went to Centrepont and saw productions of M1, 007, and the Pink Panther.

The grade 6's raved about Macskimming. There is also ski club to look forward to, as well as volleyball and basketball starting up soon. Students also enjoy Squirimies on Tuesday, Yoga, and there will be Blues in Schools next week from 9:30 to 10:30 in the morning.

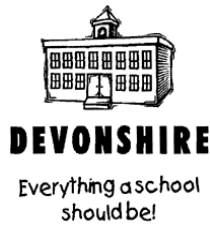
Volunteers are coming in each Tuesday for 1:1 reading with the Grade 2's and now Grade 3's. It is enjoyed by all participants.

### **Council Message (Wikke)**

#### Upcoming Events:

Date for the Hip Hood Auction is set for 3 June 2016. Details will follow at the next Council meeting.

Details for the Dance-A-Thon will follow at the next Council meeting.



## **Open Forum**

Possibility of ordering white boards for the gym? DSAP uses the gym frequently and would really appreciate having the boards. Cost is \$800-\$900 each. Council will take into consideration.

Currently working on obtaining projector for the renovated gymnasium.

There is still money to be spent from the School Council budget.

### Yard at Renovated School

The play structure in the Kindergarten yard is an accessible structure. It has been rated for 4+ years, rather than 5+ years so that JK classes and DSAP students can use it as well.

The play structures will not be removed. Too much money & fundraising went in to their purchase. There is the possibility of retrofitting the larger play structure to be accessible, pending a cost analysis.

Teachers and Council would be interested in creating an outdoor classroom at the renovated building too.

Vegetation has not sprouted - and probably won't with many students using a small yard on a daily basis. Is there the possibility of putting down artificial turf?

DSAP is a registered charity - if it was linked to the United Way campaign and promoted thoroughly, funds could be raised for projects linked to the school. It is possible to donate directly to the school (not through United Way) and allocate funds to specific projects, or keep it in a general envelope.

The Parent's Reaching Out (PRO) grant will be researched and submitted. Deadline of 29 May 2016. It would mean \$1000.00 for a specific project at Devonshire.

Julie wants to create a dedicated parent resource room at the renovated building and would like to provide materials covering a broad range of topics to be provided to parents. Council will investigate further.

**Next Meeting: 26 April 2016**