



Devonshire School Council

Date: 22 February 2017

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

2. Reports

Principal's Report

- Yoga
 - is a big hit with the students. It was decided to offer sessions to the kindergarten students as well. Cost is estimated to be \$45 for six weeks worth of classes. Class size will be limited, so it will be a first come first served registration process.
- Mindfulness training
 - has been met with immense approval by both students and staff. The fourth week of training has been completed. Victoria has been a positive influence on students and the staff have asked for sessions as well.
- Projected enrolment
 - 348 students so far
 - Junior Kindergarten numbers are soft. Please let neighbours and friends with children entering JK know to enrol as soon as possible as it will affect class sizes. For example, right now there are four classes of approximately 24 students each. If there are fewer JK students enrolled for September, that means there will be only three kindergarten classes with 30 students each. This, in turn, will impact teacher assignments and hiring. So let's get those JK's signed up!
- Junior Yard
 - Repaving will likely start as soon as the ground melts enough. If Devonshire wants anything specific to happen to the yard, planning and preparation **MUST** start as soon as possible. Otherwise, the yard will simply be paved over again.
- District Review
 - Five principals and the Superintendent visited Devonshire during an appreciative (rather than evaluative) visit
 - They were incredibly impressed with the students, remarking that they were very polite and interactive. The visitors noted how very much at home the students were in their school and enjoyed the students comfort with interacting with the adults.
 - The visitor suggested that the staff might work on designing tasks that deepen the intellectual process as students work through projects.
- Gender Identity and Expression
 - Staff have received training on how best to support students who identify as LGTB+
 - If a student wants to talk about their gender, parents are **NOT** automatically notified. That is not our place as a school. The child is supported and respected.
 - The concept of a "gender bread" person is taught to students



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- Gender identity is how the student sees him/herself. Sexual orientation is what you love/like (sexual attraction). Biological gender is just that, the genitals you were born with. Gender expression is how you dress.
- Students are taught this gender bread concept is not fixed. It is a spectrum and can change over time or remain fixed for as long as the student wishes. No matter where the student falls on the spectrum, they are perfectly normal.
- There are reading materials provided on the bookshelf outside the main office that parents and students alike are invited to take and read in order to explore this topic further.
- There is a link to a National Geographic documentary covering gender identity and expression available on the school website.

TEACHER'S REPORT (Robin)

- Kindergarten classes A & B had a great Valentine's day celebration
- The Kinder outdoor play day was a success. It ran from 8:30 to 10am, and everyone had a great time playing in the Junior yard.
- Kindergarten classes C & D will have their play day next week, or later when the snow comes back.
- Grade Ones job day was fabulous. The response from the community was wonderful and feedback from everyone has been very positive.
- Winter Carnival raised \$600 from popcorn sales! This has allowed the school to purchase an exercise bike for the second floor, and work toward fundraising for a second bike for the third floor classes.
- Micheline & the teachers would like to thank the parents who volunteered for the Carnival day! The weather was beautiful and the grade 5 and 6's did a wonderful job running the event.

REQUEST: the kindergarten teachers would like to purchase Painted Lady Butterfly kits for the classrooms. Would the Council please fund this purchase?

ANSWER: expense approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Housekeeping

- In the interest of greater transparency, DSC is launching a new practice of bringing bank statements and financial documents (receipts/bills) to Council meetings for signature and public review
- The Playground Account has been inactive for two years. TD Bank has notified DSC that we need to complete a transaction in order to reactivate the account. Therefore, it is proposed that DSC transfer a nominal amount (\$10) from the General Account to the Playground account to satisfy the bank's request. (Motion approved)

Financial Update

- Current account balances:
 - General account \$14 633.09
 - Playground fund \$4 703.98
- Pizza Fundraiser
 - \$9 780.78 gross revenue (before expenses)
 - (\$6 000.00 estimated expenses)
 - \$3 780.78 estimated net revenue
- Spending commitments



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- \$2 979.00 Tradansa
- \$1 400.00 Mindfulness Training
- DSC is on track to have \$4 254 remaining in the general account

LUNCH ALTERNATIVES

- Trial run proposed for Pita Pit
- will run IN ADDITION TO pizza days
- April 21 to June 9 every Friday
- not as volunteer heavy as pizza (majority of work done in store)
- No minimum order required
- Run through hotlunches.net
- QUESTION: is it possible to have them delivered at first break? (A: Will find out)

MOTION: begin work for trial run? MOTION APPROVED

OTHER

- next Tuesday is Toonie Tuesday. Bring \$2, student gets to wear a hat all day & is entered into a draw to be able to eat lunch with a buddy of their choosing.
- Volunteers will be needed soon for various activities! Keep you eye & ears open.

Next meeting: Wednesday 29 March 2017