

Essex P.S. Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday Oct 22, 2015

Toronto Public Health Initiatives for Parents: (2 free workshops presented)

- "At Home Alone" (for children 10-14 years old) This workshop is intended for those who are thinking of leaving their child home alone for the first time (e.g., after school). Parent and child attend together and decide if they are ready to be left home alone. This is a one night, three hour workshop.
- "Kids Have Stress Too" (for children 4-9 years old) This workshop is to help parents recognize when their child is stressed and then how to help their child assess and manage by incorporating selected life coping skills. This is held over 2 workshops, roughly 2 hours each.
- Both workshops require a minimum of ten parents to register to a max of 20 parents per session. Our Public Health Nurse can run more than one if numbers apply. Enrolled parents will jointly decide the time, date and location for the workshops.
- More information will be posted on the blog. Please contact our VP if interested.

Principal's Report:

- Things are running smoothly. Great start to the school year. We held our first Lice Screening in October. There will be another screening in the spring.
- CUPE is on Work-to-Rule (secretaries and caretakers). Caretakers are not sweeping hallways or outdoors. However, safety remains a top priority for all. Please contact our Principal or Vice Principal if you have any concerns.
- Teachers continue to be on Work-to-Rule.
- Grade 9 Open Houses are still taking place. Due to Work-to-Rule guidelines our Guidance Councilors will not be taking the Grade 8's to see any high schools at this time. Parents are encouraged to attend Grade 9 Open Houses of schools they are interested in.
- Class and individual photos went well. Look for them to come home soon!
- Cross-country went very well. Great training everyone!
- Terry Fox was very successful. This was the school's first year the event took place on site.
- Our Co-Ed football team went to the finals this fall and brought home a pennant!
- I.E.P.'s will be printed and sent home soon. Thank you for your patience.
- Yoga has started up again this year for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. Yoga will run for 4 weeks now and 4 weeks in the New Year.

Treasurer's Report:

- 25% increased profit for pizza funds for term 1 (this year compared to last year)

Parent Link Report:

- How many people have received an email from their parent rep?
- Good feedback that communication is getting home for each class
- Idea presented to have 2 Parent Link Reps for each class.
- Parent Links were recently sent a document outlining their role and responsibilities. There was some confusion about this document. The document will be reviewed and clarified and resent.
- Call to parents that if they aren't receiving their class Parent Link Emails – they can email the parent council email to ask for their name to be put on
- Secretary to create a short synopsis of Parent Council Minutes to pass onto Sue – who then passes it onto all Parent Link Reps
- Sue needs volunteers to help her to update the communication bulletin board (email our Parent Council email if you are interested)

Fundraising Committee Update:

- Monster Mixer (a Hawthorne and Essex joint venture) Friday, October 30– potluck dinner in the gym, music and costumes, DJ, prizes, 6:30-8:30pm
- Nov 20- Bingo Night – purchase bingo cards, dabbers available, celebrity bingo callers, great prizes, a raffle, pizza and drinks served, and open to the community
- **We need volunteers to work on Bingo Night – 2 shifts available (email the parent council if you can help on Nov. 20)**
- **We are asking all Essex Parents to help us collect Bingo prize donations.**
- **Bingo donations can be brought to our principal in the main office.**
- **Please mail our principal if you want a company request letter electronic version. Hard copies of the letter are available for pick up in the office.**
- Fundraising meetings will be posted on the blog – suggesting 2-3 pre decided dates to let others join.

Health and Wellbeing Committee Update:

- Focus on inclusivity and integration
- Book Club idea brought up again to see if there is any interest in starting one. Idea will be put on the blog to gauge interest from the school community.
- Next Health and Wellbeing Committee meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 2 at 8:30pm. Please email the parent council if you wish to attend.

Northern Karate Program Presented:

- They are offering a lunch time karate program at Essex PS
- For students in Grades 1-3 (maybe 4)
- One lesson a week
- -\$50 for an 8 week course
- All money raised goes directly back to our school
- If you are interested in the program, contact Leslie Tumangday our Vice Principal.

- It was agreed that extra curricular, for-cost opportunities as well as sports and clubs will be sent out to all parents via their Parent Link.

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship – Ruth & Shannon (parents)

- Hawthorne has begun the process of collecting funds to sponsor a family/families settling here from Syria and would like to include Essex PS
- Donation Goal: \$27,000
- Schools are matched with a family (larger family) to help with housing, translations, curriculum, etc. for a one year commitment
- Nov 17 is the goal date for registration
- Hawthorne is already close to \$6,000
- Motion presented to Essex Parent Council for Hawthorne and Essex to join in partnership to undertake the sponsorship of a Syrian family (all in favour / no one opposed – motion goes forward)
- Ruth and Shannon will put information forward on the school blog, through Parent Link Reps, and at an information table during the upcoming Monster Mixer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 24 @ 6:30pm