

Essex Parent Council Meeting

September 21, 2015

Essex Parent Council email: parentcouncil@essexpublicschool.com

Ministry of Ontario Guidelines for Parent Councils:
www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf

Attending:

Jean, Vanda, Leslie T., Milisa, Jim, Marlin, Matt, Alana, Jessica, Jack, Lou, James, Lynette, Alice, Mary, Mario, Michael (Model Schools Rep), Nicole, Samarra, Lynn

Elections:

Chair – Jean

Co-Treasurer – Nicole and Dave

Secretary – Lynette

Principal's Report – Jim Stathopoulos

- Great start to the year. No re-organization needed this school year as actual enrollment is in line with the projected numbers.
- Rotary model continues for Grades 7 and 8.
- Staff update: Mr. Butcher left (promoted to Vice Principal), Ms. Davies has returned to teach a Grade 5/6, Mr. Teitelbaum, is teaching Grade 4/5, Mr. Jung is our new D.D. teacher for Grade 7/8.
- Changes to our caretaking staff. Randy has left Essex P.S. Navaratnaraj (Nava) Rajaratnam is our new caretaker. Ali is our new evening caretaker replacing Paul.
- Roof overhang is now complete; Public Health has officially signed off on the area. Measures are now underway to deter the pigeons from the area.
- Field is re-sodded and fences removed.
- Teaching Staff is currently under "Work-to-Rule". As such, field trips are on hold and the older students cannot be supervised off site for the Terry Fox Run as per tradition. Ideas currently being discussed for alternative solutions to this year's Terry Fox Run.
- Cross Country's first meet will be held on Oct 8, 2015. Permission forms were sent home and are due in the office as soon as possible.
- Hot Lunch Program, "Real Food for Real Kids", is visiting Essex PS in October to discuss the logistics. They require 50 confirmed students for the program to run.

Parent Link Report – Sue (Jean presented Sue’s notes)

- All classrooms now have an assigned Parent Link Rep.
- Roles of Parent Link Reps are being sent home to those involved.
- First Coffee Meeting for new Parent Link Reps will be on Oct 16, from 9:15-10am at Scout and Cash (146 Christie St.)
- Communications Bulletin Board remains outside of the school office this year. Please let Sue know if you wish to add anything to the bulletin board, i.e., school events, homework tips, character developments, etc.
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Fundraising Committee – Samarra

- Past successes – Bingo night (November), Garage sale (April) and Spring Fling (May)
- Bingo night – all call for volunteers to help plan and run (Friday night – raffles, prizes, kids and adults, pizza sale) - Alice and Lou volunteered.
- Garage sale - begin setting aside books, movies, toys, sporting equip, (no house ware or clothing). Date to begin storing items within the school will be announced soon.
- Idea presented to maybe do 2 Bingo nights instead of Garage sale, or incorporate the Garage sale into the Spring Fling
- Committee decided not to undergo QSP fund raising this school year.
- Upcoming Fundraising committee meeting will be posted on the school blog.
- Fundraising for Spring Fling will be announced closer to the end of the year
- Essex Lobby Book Sale will also continue this school year. All call for donated books (children’s and adults).
- Pizza lunch – need more people to volunteer on Pizza Days from 11:30am to 12:00 noon to help hand out pizza.

Garden Committee – Jessica Haber

- There is money remaining in this fund.
- Would like to add an outdoor stage or mud kitchen to the Kindergarten Playground. Kindergarten teachers are currently discussing best ideas.
- Seating wanted for other children in the rest of the schoolyard.
- Hawthorne is hosting a Thursday night 6pm Garden Clean Up (both schools invited)
- Parents are invited to join the teacher/student garden meetings.

Health & Well-Being Committee – Milisa

- Goal of committee is to help develop EQ (Emotional Intelligence) in all students at Essex PS while promoting inclusivity and integration throughout.
- Looking to continue “Recess Buddies” this year.
- “Lunch Buddies” was introduced last year (inspired from UCC)
- Idea raised to begin a ‘slow’ book club surrounding issues of parenting

School Maintenance and Safety Committee – (Joint with Hawthorne)

- Marlin and Lynette volunteered
- Issue raised around the safety of buses using local lane ways and the possible installment of a “kiss and ride” program at Essex PS

Lice Checks – Lynette

- Proposal for Essex PS to book 3 visits throughout the year (September, beginning of January and after March Break) with Nit Works (same company hired last year)
- \$1/head for first visit; \$1.25/head for second visit; \$1.50/head for last visit
- Council approved the first screening visit. Lynette to book.

**Next meeting:
Thursday, October 22 @ 6:30pm**