

**Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Reports for Meeting on January 26, 2011**

Chair Report – Michael Gies

Thank you to everyone for a great first half of the school year. The hard work that you have all put in is paying off for the students here at RHS. The fun lunches have been, well, lots of fun, the Read-a-thon was a success, and the fundraising response has been amazing. We have enough coming up over the next few months to keep us busy and I look forward to our continued successes.

I am continuing to work on the voting and directorship updates for the constitution and by-laws. What we had originally scheduled for a planning meeting on February 23rd will now be a constitution meeting to discuss and develop the amendments in advance of the May AGM. I would love to hear from everyone and see lots of faces at this informal meeting.

Thanks again to everyone.

Treasurer Report – Stuart Roche

- My Fair Share donations total \$1900.00. All official receipts have been delivered.
- Approximate profit from the magazine fund raising is \$4700. We are waiting for final numbers from QSP.
- TD Canada Trust has increased it's service charges and therefore we have paid more in the first three months than we had all last year. So far we have paid \$84.23 excluding cheque charge backs fees. The bank now has a per item charge on deposits and with the number of cheques deposited from our Fun Lunch and soon to be Family Dance our year end charges could total \$300. We will be discussing the service charges with the bank and have already researched bank charges of other banks and credit unions.
- We have established a 2010/11 operating budget of \$2000.
 - \$ 600 Staff Appreciation
 - \$1,400 Service Charges/Volunteers/Meetings/Miscellaneous

Fun Lunch – Michelle Gaber and Trina Minor

Fun Lunch Nibbles

The first fun lunch of 2011 will be with Salisbury House on Friday, February 11.

We will require volunteers, so parents who would like to join us for this, or any upcoming fun lunch, can email us or the Volunteer Recruitment & Activities Committee through the PAG website at roberthsmithpag.weebly.com.

We have acquired additional bins for the shared composting, recycling and garbage stations. We have also developed posters that will be placed above each bin to help guide students and volunteers during fun lunches. However, our experience over the past two fun lunches has been that posted guidelines are not always being followed, leading to contamination of the recycling and compost streams. We request that the hallway stations be used during the fun lunch programs and not the classroom garbage and recycling bins.

Our sincere appreciation to the custodial staff for helping us with set up and clean up of the Fun Lunch on December 3.

The next fun lunch will be with Booster Juice on Friday, April 15.

Volunteers – Daryla Christie and Tara McCallum

We need to start with a big Thank –you to the staff and administration. The volunteer holiday appreciation afternoon was great! The food, the entertainment and the student-made cards were all fantastic!

The second round of HepB, HPV shots was on the 13th. Our thanks go out to all the mums who helped out. We still have one last session scheduled for May. The last group of volunteers will be contacted about a week in advance of that date.

We are in the process of finding a volunteer to take the lead for the Grade 6 Babysitting course. There are a few details that need to be taken care of soon. The person who decides to help out will need to choose a date, (in consultation with the Administration) and decide upon the group that will teach the course.

Staff Appreciation – Denise Gout-Smith

The Staff Appreciation Lunch will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd in the Staff Lounge. We will be serving an Italian themed meal this time. We will be contacting volunteers this week to ask them to sign up for help in preparing the lunch menu. Thanks to all who helped for our November event.

Picnic – Shannon Bowden

I am pleased to report that everyone from the 2010 picnic committee has agreed to help out in 2011. Thanks to Patti Chiapetta-Sharpe, Cathy Macey and Jan Siemens. We have one spot open on the picnic committee if anyone is interested in helping plan this very fun event.

I sent out a quotation request in December, and thus far I have received 4 quotations from bouncer companies that I am currently evaluating. The picnic committee will meet in the next month to discuss the picnic and to assign tasks.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Rossi & Mme Warnke

- Enrolment presently at 471, last year at this time we were at 466.
- Parents are visiting the school for enrolment for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Open House February 2nd, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. and 1:15pm in MPR room. Registration nursery— February 8th at 8:00am. Registration kindergarten— February 15th at 8:00am
- Parents have begun asking the school for reference letters for their grade 6 child. Remember that all requests go through administration and not the classroom teacher. We will complete the paper work together. (divisional policy)
- Science Fair is open to all students in grades 4-6. Projects to be completed at home and are due Tuesday March 1st. Names are submitted to the division Friday March 18th. Winnipeg School Division Science Fair takes place Thursday April 14th to Saturday April 16th.
- Artist in the School Project with Mr. Coffie is going well. All the students from grades Kindergarten to Grade 6 are enjoying drumming and dancing. Performances this Friday in the gym morning and afternoon.
- Track practices every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Track meet for grades 5 and 6 on Wednesday February 2nd, grade 4, 5 and 6 on Wednesday March 16th at the U of M.
- Speed skating date confirmed for Wednesday March 2nd at 4:30pm. Practices scheduled for Monday February 7th at 2:30pm, Wednesday February 9th at 8:00am, Thursday February 10th at 2:30pm and Wednesday February 16th at 8:00am. All practices at River Heights Arena.
- Can Spell competition is happening again and was open to all grade 4, 5 and 6 students as another form of enrichment; school competition was on Friday January 14th. Congratulations to Evan McNeil, he will be representing our school.
- Community Breakfast is Friday March 4th. A committee has been struck in the school and has initiated planning.
- After school Mad Science on Mondays and Wednesdays for students Gr. 3-6 (3:40pm-5:00pm). Starting Monday January 31st or Wednesday February 2nd.
- Concours d'art Oratoire at the school level will be on Wednesday February 23rd and divisional level on Wednesday March 16th at 6:30pm at Ecole Robert H. Smith School, Festival du Voyageur Day on Friday February 18th during Manitoba's French Week.
- Many classrooms helped at Christmas time with hampers, Winnipeg Harvest, Third World Counties, Agape House, and more.
- Staff PD Day on Professional Learning Communities (PLC) will be on Friday February 4th and our staff are looking forward to hearing again Dr. Anthony Muhammad. There will be 21 schools and 650 teachers, educational assistants and administrators joining us at the Canad Inns at Polo Park.
- Synrevoice is being used extensively to communicate with parents. The feedback we have received has been very positive.
- Technology is one of our school priorities this year and we continue to make great gains. We have purchased the remaining smart boards to put in all our classes and also have purchased a smart table for our nursery classroom.
- Mme Pruden will be off for at least 6-8 more weeks. We certainly wish her a well and a steady and speedy recovery from her illness.
- Musical auditions took place this week for Aladdin Jr. This is the largest turn out for auditions that the school has had for some years.

Important Dates:

- January 25, 2011 Ecole River Heights Grade 7 School Presentation at our school.
- January 27, 2011 Earl Grey School Grade 7 Presentation at our school.
- January 28, 2011 African Drumming and Dancing Assemblies during the morning and afternoon in our gym. Parents are welcome.
- February 4, 2011 School Closure-Anthony Muhammad PD Day.
- February 18, 2011 Festival Activity Day
- February 21, 2011 Louis Riel Day Statutory Holiday
- February 23, 2011 Concours d'Art Oratoire Fr. Immersion 3/4, 5/6
 - Basic French 4, 5/6
- March 2, 2011 Speed Skating at MTS Centre at 4:30pm.