

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Reports for Meeting on November 2, 2011

Chair – Michael Gies

Moving on from our very successful first meeting, I hope that everyone is looking forward to getting going with our tasks for the year. We had a great Fun Lunch last week as Trina and Michelle pulled off another extremely well organized and, well, fun fun lunch. We will be setting our date for the Family Dance this meeting and will start to look for volunteers – be ready! We will also be confirming our fundraising plan, which as everyone knows now has been scaled back from last year – your support is still needed though, not to worry.

As an organization though, we are faced with the departure of Tara McCallum from our ranks. We all knew the day would come, but we didn't want it to. Tara has been a vital member of the PAG for years now and I would like to thank her for everything she has done for us and our kids. We welcome Christine MacGregor to the PAG as Tara's hand-picked replacement to help out Daryla as a Volunteer Coordinator. Christine has been a very active class rep for four years now and helps out in our school seemingly every day.

I hope everyone has a great meeting and we would like to see some volunteers for bringing snacks to our next meeting!

Fun Lunch – Michelle Gaber and Trina Minor

PAG Fun Lunch Nibbles

Our sincere appreciation to all those who volunteered for our first Fun Lunch of the year. You did a great job with the challenges that developed that day!

Garbage, recycling and compost initiatives went very well so a big thank you to the students and volunteers that made clean up so easy! We also thank all the staff at RHS for all their assistance with the program and the set up/clean up for the lunch.

Our next Fun Lunch is December 9 with Panago Pizza, Booster Juice and Gunn's Bakery. Once again we will have need of volunteers to help in the classrooms during the lunch.

If you would like to participate you can email us directly, email the Volunteer Recruitment & Activities Committee through the PAG website or contact your class rep.

Volunteer – Daryla Christie and Tara McCallum

As usual, it has been a busy start to the school year. We have received many responses to our annual volunteer sign-up sheets. We are working on compiling the list of names for distribution to those that need them. We gathered any information that was needed from the sheets for the volunteer opportunities that have come and gone so far (i.e. Hep. B and Fun Lunch).

Our Volunteer Orientation session was very well attended (both morning and afternoon). There seemed to be many new parents who are quite interested in getting more involved with our school and the PAG.

This year the Fun Lunch Committee sent out a supplemental request for assistance with the Fun Lunch envelopes. Unfortunately, it caused a lot of confusion among those who had been asked to look for volunteers, the volunteers themselves and the volunteer coordinators. More communication between all three groups is required to solve these issues before the next fun lunch. For next year it may be a good idea to remove Fun Lunch from the initial volunteer sign-up sheets and just leave it to the class reps to organize directly.

On a personal note, I (Tara McCallum) need to let everyone know that I am no longer able to continue as volunteer coordinator. Christine MacGregor has graciously offered to take over my position and partner with Daryla. I want to thank everyone for seven wonderful seasons as one of the team of two volunteer coordinators for RHS. I have had many partners over the years and each one has brought a different excitement and perspective to the position. It feels odd to let this go but I have no doubt that Daryla and Christine will bring plenty of new ideas and lots of great enthusiasm to the post.

Fundraising and Promotions – Sara Man and Kali Li

To date our online magazines sales are 147 magazines totalling \$5097 online. We are looking forward to the read-a-thon which will be coming up in November.

Environment Report – Nadine Karpinski and Simone Smith

An open house was held in the library on September 28th with Scatliff +Miller +Murray, and a representative from the Canadian Cancer Society. Jennifer Wagner from SMM was present to answer questions about the Playground Enhancement Project. The open house included information on rain gardens and detailed drawings of the project as well as samples of possible materials. Positive feedback was received on comment cards from those in attendance.

The first of many future grant applications was submitted to the World Wildlife Foundation on October 17th. The grant would provide up to \$5000 for projects such as ours. The focus for the grant was on the rain garden portion of the project.

A meeting is planned for Thursday, November 3rd with Candace Partyka, Mme Labossiere, and the environment committee to discuss a strategy for future grant applications. If anyone has or knows of experienced grant writers within our school, please let Simone or Nadine know.

Staff Appreciation Report – Laurence & Susan Broadhurst, Anji Petruzzelli

There will be a Staff Appreciation Morning Recess (not a double recess) event on Thursday, November 17th.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Rossi & Mme Labossière

The end of October, can you believe it? With many school based activities, our Comprehensive Assessment Program well under way and the first phase completed, field trips, preparation for our parent teacher interviews, numerous school related meetings pertaining to children, before and after school programs for our students, and intramurals, the 2011-2012 school year is certainly going by quickly.

Culture and spirit of the school is fabulous once again. Students are behaving exceptionally well and quality learning is taking place throughout the school. There still is room for growth and we will continue to do so. For the next 2 months we will be working on our 2nd Principle of Learning which is "inclusion." For the first 2 months we have been working on "collaboration." For the most part every child in the school should know what collaboration is and give an example of it.

During the month of November once again we will have the opportunity to remember those that fought for our wonderful country, by showing respect at our *Remembrance Day Service*. *Remembrance Day Service* this year is Thursday November 10th at 10:15am. We encourage all students that are part of any service group to wear their uniform that day (scouts, girl guides, etc..).

This Friday November 4th we will be sending home Read a thon envelopes with a letter that contains information. All students once again will be receiving a participatory gift at the end of our Read a thon. We will conclude with Fred Penner performing on Friday November 18th at 1:30pm in our gym. All children will attend and families are more than welcome to come.

Since literacy continues to be very important for our students, we will continue to have a book fair during our parent teacher conferences. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday November 24th evening and Friday November 25th all day.

Friday December 16th there will be a no school for students due to a professional development day.

Winter Concert is scheduled for Thursday December 15th. This year Nursery and Kindergarten will be having their own concert during the morning due the large number of families that turn out. Grades 1 to 4 will perform during the afternoon and the evening. There will be a dress rehearsal for everyone on Wednesday December 14th.

For your information we have been working on making Ash and Kingsway more safe. We have made adjustments, emailed all families with the changes, notified the city about the cars that are parking too close to the intersection and making it extremely unsafe for all children including our hard working troops. We also have been assisting by having Mme Labossiere and an EA out there before and after school. Thanks again to everyone for pitching in their ideas. We really appreciate it.