

**Parents' Advisory Group Inc.**  
**École Robert H. Smith School**  
Annual Reports for PAG Annual General Meeting on May 22, 2013

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**Chair – Michael Gies**

As the end of another PAG year arrives I am, as always, wondering where did the year go? This year started for us with the promise of change and that is what we have accomplished. I am very proud of the changes brought into our PAG and I would love to see them continue and grow. For a while we had lost sight of the fact that we had, as part of our role, a responsibility to ensure that our voice was heard at the school level and that the partnership we share with the school was an equal partnership. The steps we have taken this year will help to strengthen and grow that relationship, but it has not been easy. Change is not always welcome – a universal truth we have witnessed at our meetings this year. There have been spirited discussions and passionate statements, a more open forum for all discussion, and a move to understand the actions of the school, not just accept them at face value. We have a role in the school and the community and as we learned from the Minister of Education at the MAPC AGM, that role is recognized and encouraged by our government.

We have created the Curriculum Committee and held two (soon to be three) successful meetings that have allowed for the open discussion of some items not fully fleshed out at regular PAG meetings and brought forward new ideas that hope to transform some parts of our children's experience in the school. A motion will be put forward at our AGM to replace the Block Parent directorship with the Curriculum Committee Chair to reflect its value to the PAG. Our Playground Committee has worked tirelessly and steadily through the year and continues to lay the groundwork for future grounds development – a welcome and needed addition to a school of 470 students with a relatively small playground area. Our Dance was a rousing success, as usual, and featured some great new additions. The picnic promises to be a fresh update on an RHS family favourite and the Walkathon will build upon last year's success. I thank every parent who has stepped forward and helped in whatever capacity they could to enrich our children's time here at Ecole Robert H. Smith School.

I have certainly enjoyed and learned so much in the past three years as the chair of the PAG, but I must announce my resignation from the position effective for the next school year. While we have achieved much this year, it has not been easy for me and I do not have the energy or time to see it through. I realize now that two years is enough for a chair; any more than that pulls you too far into the position. Change is good and there are so many helpful and enthusiastic parents in our school that someone will step up and bring more to the table than I ever could. Thank you to Mme. Labossiere and Mr. Rossi for being so open to discussion and supporting our efforts through highs and lows. I thank all the parents who helped me over the years, every PAG director I had the honour of working with, and particularly thank my executive cohorts – Lisa, Trish, Christine, Stu, and Candace – without whom I would have been done before I ran my first meeting.

Michael Gies  
Chairperson

**Administrative Report – Mr. T. Rossi and Mme. Labossiere**

1. Enrollment presently at approximately 476 students. Presently we have 489

students registered for 2013-2014 with a number of students on a wait list.

2. As of today we will have 3 nursery classes next year for the purpose of lowering the nursery class sizes to fewer than 20 children in each class presently.

3. Staffing for 2013-2014: Not complete, we are just going into the second round as of yesterday. Once we have our staffing completed we will share the information with our parents. We are presently advertising a grade 2/3 English Teacher (term), grade 3 French Immersion Teacher, Nursery, Physical Education Teacher (.50) and a SERT (.50 Term). We do know that M. Abdel will be going to LaVerendrye School to teach grade 4/5 French, Mme Loveridge will be taking her deferred salary next year and Mrs. Heuchert will be taking her maternity leave.

4. May 13th our staff had a school planning professional development day. The morning was dedicated to the new Provincial Report Card and during the afternoon we revisited our 2012-2013 school goals and made plans for the 2013-2014 school year. Great input from all our staff!

5. Life Touch Roof Top Picture scheduled for Monday May 28th at 10:45am.

6. Plant Sale Pickup this Friday May 24th from our school gym.

7. Musical Revue "The Time is Right" was awesome. Thanks to all our grade 5 and 6 students for performing their hearts out! Thank you to all the staff that volunteered their time and energy with the musical. Thanks to the parents that helped out with the costumes. All the students looked their part or decade! The initial feedback we have received so far from students, staff and parents has been overwhelming positive! Way to go Robert H. Smith School.

8. Walk-a-Thon Envelopes and Letters going home on this Friday May 24th. Walk-a-thon scheduled for Friday May 7th during the afternoon.

9. Staff Appreciation: Second best to none. We all thank you and we all feel much appreciated by our parents and community. Thank you to all the parent volunteers for their commitment.

10. Volunteer Reception is scheduled for tomorrow Thursday May 23 at 1:30pm in our library.

11. Report Cards, Community Report, School Supply Envelopes and Final Newsletter go home Wednesday June 26, 2013.

12. Grade 6 Farewell scheduled for Tuesday June 25. Doors will open at 1pm and a power point will be running until 1:30pm. We will then start the formal part of the assembly. The students once again will be piped into the gym and it is our intention to have the program completed by 2:30pm in time for the grade 5 parents to host refreshments. Our grade 5 students will also have the honour of singing our school song to the grade 6 students at their farewell.

13. Friday May 28 the last day of school, we will be having a farewell assembly in our gym at 11:00am with all the staff and students. This will be a time for us to say our last farewells to students and staff for the 2012-2013 school year. At 11:30am, teachers will escort their class outside for their final time when the "traditional hand bell" rings.

14. Last but not least, Mme Labossiere, Mr. Rossi and staff would like to thank all the PAG Representatives/Standing Committees for volunteering endless hours for our school and children. Your efforts are appreciated. For many of you that are not returning as PAG members we salute you and thank you for your valuable commitment. As one door closes another one opens for some of our other parents to step through and experience the partnership PAG and our school offers. We certainly look forward to working with whoever walks through the door. **Together Everyone Achieves More**

### **Volunteers – Daryla Christie and Shauna Filuk**

This has been another eventful year for volunteers at Robert H. Smith. Once again the year has flown by and the end is right around the corner.

As the Volunteer Coordinators, we are so fortunate to have lots of people to call upon. We are extremely grateful for the assistance that is always provided by our R.H.S families.

We are fairly certain that we did not go over our budget this year. We did our best to cost share with the Fun Lunch Coordinators and some other portfolios. Whenever possible, Fun Lunch purchased extra food at a reduced rate from the vendors. We would recommend continuing this practice in the future.

After our volunteer orientation in the fall, we decided not to offer any extra information sessions this year. The use of Synervoice has greatly increased the efficiency of volunteers for different events throughout the year. It is a much simpler process now that we have the capability to contact large numbers of RHS parents with one email. The use of the Classroom Reps provides better communication to the parents of Robert H. Smith and as a result, more people were involved in the many activities that take place all year long.

Our partnership with the Resource team works very well. They were able to offer support and assistance with the many aspects surrounding Child Abuse Registry, volunteering and volunteer recruitment.

I have enjoyed the past year as a Volunteer Coordinator and I am more knowledgeable about P.A.G as a result. Thank you to everyone - volunteers, the other P.A.G. members, and staff for making this opportunity easier. Thanks to Tara McCallum for keeping me on top of our reports and answering my emails and questions. Having Daryla as a partner this year has been fantastic. Her knowledge of the role and her contacts with the younger families at RHS made the experience more enjoyable.

As is seen at our school each year, there are many occasions where volunteers are necessary to keep things running smoothly at RHS. Our school community is amazing and we are thankful to be part of it.

Respectfully submitted,

Shauna Filuk & Daryla Christie

### **Fun Lunch – Tara**

The final fun lunch of 2013 will be with Hot Dogs with A&W floats & Sweet Impressions cookies on Friday, May 31.

Based on feedback from past volunteers as well as staff we have decided as a group to have A&W provide the hot dogs for the upcoming fun lunch. This will use up the last of our funds for the year but I believe it will reduce much of the stress associated with preparing everything ourselves.

We have sent out a request for volunteers and hope to have a finalized list by the end of this week.

Our sincere appreciation to the custodial staff for helping us with set up and clean up of all of the fun lunches.

This will be our final fun lunch as your coordinators and it has been a pleasure working with such a supportive PAG and incredible volunteers.

We are still searching for our replacements and have one individual interested in doing all of the administration work. If you or anyone you know would be interested in the manual aspect of the position please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Tara VanCaeyzeele, Kirsten Stokes Smith & Barbara Hermann  
PAG Fun Lunch Coordinators 2012/2013

### **Environment Report – Nadine Karpinski and Simone Smith**

We will finish the year having applied for five grants. We will find out about the success of these applications over the summer and into September. We have also applied for City of Winnipeg funding. Playground-specific fundraising activities this year included the bake sale at the Christmas/Hanukkah Concert and the first ever Extreme Recess event (June 21st). Our goal is to have the Hill and Aspen Forest built during the summer of 2014. The web site continues to be the main source of information: [rhsplayground.blogspot.ca](http://rhsplayground.blogspot.ca)

Motion for the next meeting:

I would like to put forward a motion to change the Environment Committee to having only one chair, and to rename it the Outdoor and Environment Committee.

### **Staff Appreciation: Anji Petruzzelli, Susan and Laurence Broadhurst**

We had three Staff Appreciation events this year: a morning recess break with hot drinks and baking; presents of Valentines chocolate and coffee/tea; and a lunch with freshly cooked pasta, side dishes and a dessert table. Of course, we had many volunteers who cooked, baked, served, cleaned up and made posters to help us with our events. Many thanks to those volunteers. We hope the staff enjoyed our tokens of appreciation because we sure do appreciate all the work you do for us.

