

Parents' Advisory Group Inc.
École Robert H. Smith School
Reports for Meeting on November 7, 2012

Fun Lunch - Tara VanCaeyzele, Kirstin Stokes Smith & Barbara Hermann

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

If you have any feedback, please let us know so we can make the program easier for volunteers and even better for students.

Our next Fun Lunch is December 7th with Domino's Pizza. We will again need volunteers for the classroom as well as volunteers for set up and clean up for that day.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that this will be our only year as Fun Lunch Coordinators as our boys are graduating. If any parent volunteers are interested in obtaining information about the program please do not hesitate to contact us.

Volunteers – Daryla Christie and Shauna Filuk

As usual, it has been a busy start to the school year. We have compiled the information returned to us from the 2012-2013 Volunteer sign-up sheets. The information has been recorded into a Master List and will be distributed to the appropriate directors and staff members that need them. All Parent volunteer names have been forwarded to Janice Beers to check that the appropriate forms have been completed prior to volunteering at École Robert H. Smith. Any new names that come to us will be added to our existing lists and then forwarded on to the correct people. It is a lot of work making sure that all of the volunteer forms are up to date and that everyone is still current and able to volunteer.

The Volunteer Orientation session took place on September 27th with both sessions well attended. It was great to see new faces that are enthusiastic to get involved and volunteer at our school. All of their questions and concerns were answered by the WSD Volunteer Coordinator – Erin Bailey.

The first Fun Lunch on October 26th was a big success thanks to Tara, Kirsten, and Barb! The Fun Lunch Coordinators contacted most of the volunteers themselves for each classroom. In the end, we assisted by sending an email out through the Classroom Reps asking for more volunteers that were still needed in some classrooms. We are using the Classroom Reps as a liaison with all the parents for different volunteer opportunities.

The first of three vaccinations for Hep B. and HPV took place on October 2nd. We recruited 5 parent volunteers. The morning ran very smoothly and the children were well taken care of. The next vaccination will take place on January 15th, 2013.

In closing, we will continue to assist with recruiting volunteers that are needed in the upcoming months for the different volunteer opportunities at École Robert H. Smith.

Staff Appreciation – Susan and Lawrence Broadhurst and Angie

A morning coffee Staff Appreciation event was held on Friday, November 2nd. The timing was in part due to the fact the staff probably needed a bit of pampering at the end of a busy Halloween week. This event was fully supported by 23 volunteers who brought in food (baking, fruit & juice for cider), set up the staff room, watched the nursery and kindergarten classes during a double recess, and lunch staff who volunteered their time to monitor the grades one to six children for their outdoor recess. Many thanks to all.

Fundraising – Sara Man

QSP is continuing on with the online fundraiser. We have sold just over \$2000 worth of magazines. Not sure what that means in terms of monies to us, but considering we haven't had to do anything. The Read-a-thon will be next up and that is run by the school.

Environment Report – Nadine Karpinski and Simone Smith

The playground survey results are in. We had 139 families respond to the survey. While the details will be shared at the Nov 7 PAG meeting and on the website, approximately 80% of families are in favour of the PAG moving forward with the project.

South District Advisory- Tia-Alexandra Everitt

South District Advisory Board Meeting

The first SDA meeting of the 2012/13 year was held on Tuesday, October 30/2012 at 7:15 PM at JB Mitchell School.

Tony Rossi and I were in attendance. Most area schools were well represented both by PAG reps and administrators.

The majority of the meeting dealt with minutia from introductions and greetings, to appointment of a chair, approval of agenda etc.

There is one issue in particular that we will need to address at the November 7th PAG meeting, involving WSD's budget for the upcoming year.

WSD is concerned that the provincial government will not be handing down adequate funding in February, in order to continue supporting existing public school programming/staffing/maintenance. Last year, they raised the mill rate, and levied property taxes to make-up for the short fall. This year, they are likely in a similar situation, and want input from all PAGS before the budget drops. There are several options the board will be forced to consider to make up for budget shortfall in a district with increasing student numbers, and a great deal of specialized programming, and none are positive:

- *Cut teaching jobs*
- *Cut support staff jobs*
- *Cut programming*

- Levy taxes

I have been asked to return to the École Robert H. Smith PAG and ask if there are any parties interested in forming a delegation to attend a Board of Trustees meeting to give input on parent preferences.

French Language Coordinator – Andrea Robertson

The meeting is open to PAG members (members of the general public/special interest groups have different time slots) who live in WSD 1. *We must register our attendees in advance.*

The meeting will convene at Tech Voc in the gym at 6:30 on November 29. I am able to organize a delegation/registration if it is the will of the PAG executive.

If you would like to see a copy of the minutes of the SDA meeting, answer any questions, see any notes I have taken or WSD guidelines for Board Advisory Committees, please let me know, and I will furnish you with a copy.

Canadian Parents for French recently sent out a list of some resources to help parents and students who are learning French as a second language. There are many interactive and fun websites out there that help children and families brush up on their French language skills. Many sites offer a variety of verb, vocabulary and conjugation games. Here are some descriptions of a few.

Radio-Canada - www.radio-canada.ca/jeunesse/petits/ - CBC Radio-Canada's games website for younger kids. Several learning games under the "jeux" tab.

CASLT Games - www.caslt.org/flash/teachers/ - a few fun games to help younger students (K-3) learn some French terms and words. Developed by the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)

Quia games - www.quia.com/shared/french/ - a great mix of entertaining games that help build vocabulary in a fun setting. Many popular games are incorporated (Eg. Who wants to be a millionaire, battleship) aimed towards younger students but could be fun for the whole family.

ONFJeunesse.ca - the National Film Board of Canada presents NFB kids

Digital Dialects - www.digitaldialects.com/French/htm - A great site to learn French terms, phrases and greetings, and build vocabulary on several topics, including food, colors, events and more. Educational games help the user build up their knowledge of the language in an entertaining environment.

FSL Activities with M. Renaud - <http://fslactivities.ca/kidsplayground/index.html> - A great website with links to a wide variety of games to help build vocabulary and verb skills for students at every level.

Podcasts - podcasts are free and will help you with French vocabulary! There's a wide variety that can be downloaded from the iTunes store that aim at several different age and interests groups. They are webcasts which are typically released in a series of episodes, and follow a general theme. Just search 'learning French podcasts' @ iTunes or your web browser!