

December Coffee Club Notes

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with other CES parents, discuss concerns and share ideas. Sorry for the delay, here is a summary of our meeting.

1. Snow Days

Concern/Ideas:

- Students are watching TV rather than experiencing a learning environment.
- Classes are being combined for the entire day without focus on learning.
- Parents see snow days and the resulting smaller group attendance as an opportunity for remedial activities.

Action:

- Find out the OCDSB policy on snow days
- Ask the Principal to seek the teachers' perspective on snow days
- Share with the entire parent community what they can expect their child to experience on a snow day so that parents can make the best choice their child on a snow day.
- Investigate the possibility of having an organized "drop off" in the bus loop for all grade levels

2. Nutrition/Healthy Eating

Concern/Ideas:

- Our children need to learn how to eat, from enjoying food in a social setting to making healthy choices and how different foods affect how we feel.
- Many children with candy/cupcakes/sugary treats in their lunch on a daily basis.

Actions:

- Explore possibility of evening workshop for parents on making healthy choices, how to pack a nutritious and fun lunch.
- Investigate what resources are available through public health nurse assigned to CES
- Provide on-line resources on blog with links to School Board "Cookbook" and food guidelines
- Look for existing opportunities to complement this initiative (i.e. nutrition month, new years resolutions, programming in classroom)

3. Outside Experiences/Extra-curriculars

Concern/Ideas:

- Parents would like to know what extra-curricular opportunities exist for the different grades going forward in January (i.e. Choir)
- Students need some focussed recess activities
- Parents would like to know if there will be field trips for the various grades

Actions:

- Organize and lead a special recess activity once per month (i.e. Four Square, soccer)

4. General Comments

- Not all teachers engage parent volunteers in their classroom and for those parents who wish to volunteer, other areas in the school (i.e. library) could benefit from their time.

- Maintain a centralized list of volunteers and put out calls for specific event/time.
- Use of TV in core french.
- New families to the school feel that Castlefrank is very welcoming and there is a culture of being part of a school/community.
- Coffee Club will continue with instalments on February 5th and April 9th open to all parents. (I just picked dates - if you see a school/community conflict please let me know and we can change them before we finalize and share with the parent community)

Carmen and I are going to have cupcakes with Ron tomorrow during a lull in the bake sale and will bring forward our discussions. If you have any comments/changes please let me know. I will follow-up with an email tomorrow.

Thank you everyone for your participation, comments and ideas! If I don't see you before the winter break all the best for a happy and restful holiday.

Cheers,
Carol