

## Coffee Club Meeting Notes

February 7, 2014

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with other CES parents, discuss concerns and share ideas. I have also included those who attended the December meeting and could not join us in February. Sorry for the very long delay, here is a summary of our meeting.

### 1. Discussion Topic: Engagement: What motivates our parents to be involved?

- Meet other parents
- Connect with teachers and staff
- Contribute to other children's educational experience in addition to their own
- Create a sense of community
- Instil a sense of pride in our children; our children are excited to show parents their school and what they have been working on in class
- Create a connection between home and school; the learning experience does not end when the bell rings at 3pm

From the principal's perspective, having more parents involved in school committee work has parents influencing the direction of the school which is a good thing. Ron continues to encourage parents to connect with him about their ideas, concerns and perspective.

From the parents, perspective, everyone feels like they are part of the team. The agenda stickers, blog postings and newsletter are all effective invitations to keep parents connected with the school. They also appreciated that the coffee club meetings are held at a different time of day from Council meetings.

### 2. Academic Achievement

#### Concern/Ideas:

- With the focus on math this year, there was concern that literacy was receiving less emphasis
- Principal identified that both the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA) and Board IPSA were focussed on numeracy
- At home reading programs were not a prevalent as some parents would like. The principal recommended that parents speak to the teacher first, then the Principal, if books are not coming home then "challenge the teacher"
- Writing expectations, need to encourage students to take pride in their work
- When will the School be practising the lockdown procedure? Further discussion ensued on locked doors and what are the practices and procedures.
- Students are losing skills because of the implementation and use of technology, for example cursive writing and mapping. How do we challenge teachers to use technology but find a balance without the loss of these skills?

#### Actions:

- Parents to keep the dialogue open between themselves and the teacher, the principal recommended a phone call/note in agenda to the teacher.
- Principal to schedule two school lockdown procedures; first date/time to be shared with parent community and second will be conducted without warning.

- Principal to remind staff to ensure exterior doors are locked promptly after school bell rings after morning entry and nutrition breaks
- Council to investigate how we could have technology educators to make presentation to our school community. How could we utilize technology (i.e. webinar) to reach out to those parents who cannot attend a presentation at school?

### **3. Update on Clubs and use of School Council funds to support recess play**

- Choir (Grades 1-3): On-going since October, meets First Nutrition Break Wednesdays (Tuesday First Nutrition Break for those with speaking parts). Choir members are currently practising for their musical on the Mind-Up program. Led by Mme Martel and Mrs Byrtus.
- In-Door Recess Games (Grades 1-3): Completed, ran January/February. On a rotating schedule, each class had the opportunity, on four occasions to participate in organized games in the gymnasium. Led by Mrs Rockburn, Ms Crowe and Mrs Hanoski
- Math Club (Grades 2-3): Completed, ran February/March. Students had the opportunity to work on math problems and prepare for the Kangaroo Math Competition, held on March 23. Led by Mme Smith. Council provided \$40 for the wrap up fraction and food party.
- Craft Club (Grades 1-3): On-going since February, meets Second Nutrition Break every other Wednesday. Led by a parent volunteer, Avan Hoshyar and supported by Ms Dolan and Mme Lemenchick.
- Yoga Club (Grades 1-3): On-going since end of March, meets First Nutrition Break Thursdays. Led by Mrs Byrtus and Mme Toye
- Snack Club (Grades 1-3): To come!! Watch for news on this new club, parents will be asked to provide some food and Council is providing \$150 to purchase other supplies. Led by Mme Ashworth and Mrs. Brown.
- Playground Equipment: Council has approved spending to support the purchase of spring/fall playground equipment and pop-up soccer nets for the Kindergarten yard. Council has also commissioned the construction of custom toy boxes on wheels to store the playground equipment so that it is accessible for our grade 1-3 students during nutrition breaks.

Thank you everyone for your participation, comments and ideas! Our next and final meeting of the Coffee Club will be held on Friday April 25th from 8:30-10am in the old music room. Our discussion will be focussed on “Looking Forward to Next Year”.

Cheers,  
Carol