

Minutes from the October meeting were passed around

Welcome to all the new parents!

Tanya Murdoch: opening words, acknowledging this school is situated on the First Nations land.

Val Upfold: Financial update:

Budget committee met to disperse funds remaining from previous school year. Largest allocation was \$10,000 towards technology. This money was used in conjunction with \$16,500 from the school.

The council sent out a letter asking families to donate funds for various school needs. Our goal is for each family to donate as much as they can – no donation is too small! We're grateful for \$2, \$5, \$100 or \$500! As long as each family can participate in raising funds for the school.

Discussion about whether donations can be done directly to the Council or to the School through TDSB: If donations are made through TDSB, the school has less freedom in deciding how to allocate the donations, and which suppliers to purchase from. If the donations are made directly to the council, we can have a bigger say in what the funds go towards, and where to purchase the equipment.

Staff report: Mme Cenac - Nice to see so many parents out, so many "new" faces!

Programs happening at school for the Junior grades (4,5, 6)

- Paper engineering for Grades 4-5-6
- Lunch time club for Grades 4-5-6

Eco club: kick off was last week. We encourage you to send students with boomerang lunch: containers with food, to be returned home (as opposed to packaged food that leaves wrappers and trash). Uneaten food returns home to minimize the compost garbage and help the environment.

Admin Report: Principal Farrelly & VP Cecile Robertson

Real life curriculum connection: Kids wrote the Tree Story on the tree outside the doors (no.5) asking not to climb on it. The kids in the class figured out the age of the tree and wrote a story on it.

A tree came down on the side of the kindergarten playground (north east side) – Nancy Rawlinson’s class was involved in monitoring it and learning about tree health.

- Mr Bell worked on the culturally-offensive Halloween costumes, and received media attention for it, his class was interviewed as was he.

- Grade 6 student Lauren Millar was selected to read aloud a story of a Veteran for Remembrance Day. This tradition is 20 years old in our school!

Diwali

Our school is a multicultural community, and the **Diwali** celebration was great – second annual celebration at our school, great curriculum connection! Students were very proud to be in full gear, and teach and learn about the holiday. Over 40 parents volunteered to decorate, cook, bring treats and teach the kids about Diwali.

Diwali feedback:

Some kids did not get to participate in Diwali because teachers chose not to bring them, but the kids were very disappointed and that’s a valuable feedback for the teachers, to make sure it gets better next year.

Parking Lot: this is a huge safety issue. It’s a parking lot and it’s very difficult to drive in/out because of the little kids walking through.

Pedestrian traffic through the lot is heavy, and it shouldn’t be.

Walking the kids through the parking lot is not safe, please avoid walking there.

Play structure in the south west corner of the field: It’s not for infants, and it’s not safe for little kids. Please make sure your kids don’t play on it if they’re under 5 years old; not before and not after school.

Late arrivals:

We have many late arrivals, which is disruptive to the classes and the students. School is our kids’ job. They can’t be late for it. Please get to school on time.

Halloween: JK and SK walked in the morning parade before the parents; kids in grades 1-6 paraded through the retirement home next door. The residents were very happy to see the students, and the students received treats – bags of chips.

Thank you for limiting the candy coming to school, because the sugar really affects the kids behavior, energy levels and ability to concentrate. Thank you for not sending candy to school parties!

Food safety:

We have had unsafe candy arrive: We can't have peanut butter candy, no nuts at all. If the food contains peanut butter – it's not safe to send to school as we have children with deadly peanut/nut allergies.

Technology: we had a surplus of \$1000, the council gave us \$1000 and the TDSB added funds, and the school got 5 new macbooks to be used in the library; they'll be used in groups and will be at the library.

We have 1 new mini iPad for each JK/SK room.

We're waiting to purchase the interactive screens (Smart Boards) until we have a new school building, to get them installed properly in the classes.

We got 15 new netbooks – now altogether we have 29 computers for the Junior classes to use.

Transitional board of NSRT (New School Review team): Our first meeting is December 13 (may be rescheduled)

School photos: If you haven't yet, you can still order the photos but online only.

December 15: Junior Choir and Band Music concert, all other concerts are going to take place in/after January 2017.
Holiday school break: Dec 24 – Jan 8. Last day of school: December 23; first day back: January 9.

Follow us on Twitter: @davisvillePS for all updates and news

Ms Roberts (VP) update:

Fl immersion registration:

Info night - Nov 15 at 6:30pm at the gym for parents of JK students

PARS – online application opened November 1 on TDSB specialty program website and closes December 1.

Progress reports

Coming home November 17

Teacher-Parent Interviews: Thursday, November 17 in the evening;

Friday November 18 in the morning.

Raptors Game:

Our school choir performing the National anthem November 28 at the game! Sarah Miller organized ticket purchasing for the game, for the families of the choir students.

Anti Bullying Committee:

Looking for a parent representative, if you're interested please let us know.

First meeting next Wednesday, November 9 at noon:

We're looking at the following programs to combat bullying: Buddy benches, yoga mindfulness to decompress. Ideas welcome.

PA day: our staff focused on achievement, well-being and equity. We've been working with a learning coach at lunch and learn.

Mood food: Tue Oct 25 workshop led by Lesley Stoyan and Chris the SnackMan. We played Family Food game and tested samples of food. We always welcome parent workshops. Our school is very active - thank you for coming!

Council Chair Tamara Kolber report:

Fundraising:

Purple letter went home asking all families for donations to the school; we'll have our spirit wear program starting soon, forms coming next week.

Choir families raising money for the choir through chocolate sales, \$3/bar. If you're interested in supporting the choir, please contact the

council. They're raising funds to purchase vests, raisers and pay for transport.

ACORN fundraising – kids drawing is happening next term.

Fun Fair in June – we need to build a committee and organize it, volunteers needed.

Movie night: \$5/child, snack provided. It's a fundraiser, it raises a lot of \$ for the school. Kids within JK/SK must have a parent attend with them!

Tanya Murdoch's update:

Freecycle: Parents will be collecting handmedowns, bring outwear that your kids outgrew: winter boots, snow pants, coats. We'll set it all up in the family room (by the office), and whoever needs winter clothing may pick them up there for free. It's a good way to share with the community. We're setting it up on Friday. If you can help sort the donated clothing or keep it neat, if you're in the school during the day, please help us keep it organized.

Library update

Please come to the library to volunteer and help shelve books. It's a quick job and we really need many people to come in and put books away.

Please email Heidi Kerney heidi.kerney@gmail.com if you're able to volunteer during the school day. Ms Montello teaches French in the afternoon around 2-3pm, good time to volunteer then.

Library Fair: may be run in the next term, we're in talks with suppliers.

If you're not getting the council's emails every Sunday, please sign up.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the school, the form was circulated already; is available at the office and may be circulated again through email asking for volunteers.

Brand new event: Free Games night. For families, Tue Nov 22 from 6:30pm and on. It's a Friend-raising event: come play Bingo, Checkers, Pictionary, etc. with your kids, after school. If you can help organize and help run it, please let us know.

Q: what happened to International / multicultural night?

A: it was organized by the staff. We wanted it to be about learning about the cultures. Our staff is working on organizing it again, in a bigger way. We don't want it to be just about the food. We're looking to do it again but we're planning it for later in the year.

Chris Trussel (the Snack Man) update:

Choir Chocolate forms have gone out to the choir members, chocolate delivered Nov 14 is being sold now (\$3/bar), fundraiser due by end of November. The choir needs new vests and another riser. November 28th the choir will participate at the Raptors game by singing the National Anthem. Choir families can purchase up to 4 tickets.

Discussion: Non-choir families also want to help the choir and sell/buy chocolates. We can make more money for the choir if the whole school gets involved. Class connectors may forward that info to the classes.

Parent Partnership program - for families new to Canada :

Newcomers get paired up with more established parents in Canada. Wendy has 4 connections made already to welcome new families; Mehraz, our school's settlement worker is starting a new program to help newcomers learn and speak English. Every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30-3:15 pm on the 1st floor ; guest speakers are welcome to help out.

Fresh Schools/Lunch program update.

Lunch buddies: during lunch from 11:35-12:30 there are about 15 parents volunteer during the lunch time. We need extra parents outside when there's minimal supervision. Lunch buddies : the students go outside and go up to kids who may be lonely or crying and help them. We record good behavior and make announcements praising the helpers the following day over our PA system. The kids

are proud to hear their names and are motivated to help others, be more empathetic and engaging with other kids.

Lunch supervisors appreciate parent volunteers being there during lunch to help out. We don't have enough supervisors. (Legally with TDSB it has to be 1 supervisor per 100 kids, (unless it's JK/SK) which is clearly not enough.

Indoor recess: the kids stay insided when the weather is bad. We need donations of more games, puzzles, supplies like paper towels. For outside, we need chalk.

Handwashing before lunch doesn't happen, as there aren't enough sinks and not enough time for everyone to wash their hands.

Supervisors need hand pumps/ soap to help kids clean up.

As for there not being enough supervisors: the parents can write to superintendent and the trustee and request more supervisors. Although we at our school have one more supervisor than we were allocated originally.

Lunch-time chaos strategies: need a group to discuss and brainstorm to figure out security issues. We can't have kids wander around the school unsupervised during recess. It can be part of the committee to reduce stress.

Lunch supervisors' input: kids don't respect the lunchroom supervisors.

Parents made a suggestion to introduce school uniforms:

They make it easier to get ready in the morning. Small group of parents wishing for this change can start discussing this with the office staff.

Hot lunch update: our past providers dropped out; we're looking for providers that work with TDSB. We're working on it and will keep you updated.

Motion to approve the minutes from June and September meetings approved.

Motion to adjourn John Hiddema. Seconded Val Upfold.

Attendance:

Tanya Murdoch
Tamara Kolber
Morgan Hedges
Heidi Kerney
Vineela Yaramakala
Yvonne Asekunouno
Wendy Bhim
Dan Collins
Nachely Gifliano
Manohar Pappireddy
Val Upfold
Anya Laskin
Chris Trussell
Janani Rajagopalan
Kayla Rudberg-Rotman
Corey Rotman
Suchita Malpote
Priti Chitre
Radha Ballani
Gabriella Medeiros
Rani Atassi

Dameh AL Challah
Anne Mullins
Suresh Mandusamame
Swarualatha Korrayati
Leah Sanchez
Anjali Tiwari
Wynsome Walker
Hafeez Pisani
Anthony Manganye
Chris Thompson
Makikarelan Sakhaman
Arumina
Andi Moraes
Najat Mousa
Cindy Wasser
Patrick Robinson
Alexandrai Chang
Alison Stanley
Lynne LeBlanc
Amber Lepage-Monette