

Meeting Date: 14/11/2018



WHO :	Parent Action Committee (PAC) / Comité Action Parents (CAP)
WHAT:	Café des Parents – Monthly General Meeting
WHEN:	First Wednesday of the month
WHERE:	School’s Library / Bibliothèque d’école

1. ATTENDEES

Cali Gibbs	Michelle Tennant
Catherine Simon	Prisca Rosoanaivo
Christine Tam	Qiongli Wu
Florence Chazal	Rosanne Wong
Franck Tavares	Sandrina Saldana
Geraldine Fouchereau	Sharla Stohandske
Golnar Ghazi	Shiva Badiie
Kara Misra	
Karelyn Hrushowy	
Karin Payany	
Katty Rastamyardi	
Laylee Mehrdad	
Lise Le Feuvre	
Lizeth Escobeco	
Melanie Fossourier	

Note:

2. GENERAL UPDATES

- Communication** – Overall the majority of parents were very pleased with school communication and the newsletter. They really appreciate how focused and relevant the information is and the upcoming events/reminders section. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have more clear subject lines for emails. There was discussion regarding communication to Class Reps and suggestions regarding how to communicate (i.e., clear filters, consistent and standardized, less messages). A suggestion was also made to make more use of the school website and to determine how to communicate with families arriving mid-year. Michelle will share the feedback with Franck, Alain and Patricia.

- **Food** - A question was raised about whether or not the school would request that parents bring food for a buffet at the Winter Concert. PAC members felt like there was too much wasted food at the Halloween event and recommended that for each future event we ask select classrooms to bring food to share. They felt that some of the food could have been put into the room where the parents were invited to have coffee so that so much didn't go to waste. In addition, they felt the communication about what they were allowed to bring was confusing and inconsistent and that class parents didn't understand the requirements or how the event was going to be set up. Michelle will share the feedback with Franck and Alain.

3. COUSTEAU UPDATES (PRINCIPAL OR FACULTY)

- **School Programs (Franck):** Franck identified school programs in need of extra funding. Updates on programs:
 - **Technology** program has been rolled out across all grades. Donated computers are in use and specific educational software has been acquired and installed in computers.
 - **P.E. program** saw the first organized soccer tournament in late-October. Additional competitions to come. Charles has a detailed plan for novel fieldtrips i.e. Climbing/skiing
 - **Library** budget for the re-design is estimated at ~\$40,000. The design was presented to the PAC. Once the school signs off on the plans, Franck expects work to be completed in ~8 weeks. Franck to confirm whether the \$40k includes shipping cost and tax.
 - **Eco School Certification:** Franck announced that Cousteau has officially become the 1st certified Eco-school in Canada! This has been a 3-year effort!
- **School Program Funding Support:** Franck has requested from PAC funds for the following programs and the accompanying amounts:
 - P.E. \$2,000 – tournaments, field trips and equipment
 - Eco-School \$2,000 - certification and various projects
 - Music \$2,000 – new instruments
 - Technology \$2,000 – software, materials to create things (i.e., robots)
 - Library \$12,000 – Furniture and items necessary to create flexible space
 - Field trips \$5,000 - \$23/student
- **PAC Discussion and Vote:** Discussion regarding how to begin thinking more long term, possibly 3 years out, so that we understand what the needs of the school will be as we make decisions regarding how to fundraise and what to fund. A recommendation was made to look into Job Stars donations to support PE equipment for Nov/Mar. PAC members voted to support the amounts requested above of for each program using the money currently in the PAC bank account for a total of \$25k. How we use the Gaming Grant funds and any funds from upcoming events is still being considered.

4. FUNDRAISING

- **Gaming Grant (Michelle):** Confirmed that the gaming grant was awarded to Cousteau for \$3552. Criteria on how the funds can be used in the school have been circulated.
- **Two Rivers Meats (Sandrina):** Goal is to raise \$3,000. This is fundraiser project Cousteau participated in last year that was successful. Encouraged everyone to email link to family, friends and colleagues to expand the reach of this project. Monies raised will go to field trips. Ordering ends Feb 28/19. Communication should include a reminder in the December newsletter and again in Jan/Feb 2019.
- **Art Cards (Lizeth):** Order deadline was extended a day. Class representatives have been encouraged to communicate that this is also a fundraising project. Final distribution scheduled for mid-Nov. We are on

track to make ~\$1500 (tbc next month). The funds raised from this will go towards field trips with a fair amount designated per student.

- **Meals – to – go:** Fri. December 7th. Anticipate a similar amount raised as a Bon Appétit event. Funds raised from this program have been ear-marked for the Music Program.

5. CHARITABLE GIVING

- **Strathcona and Woodward's (Lizeth):** Next month (December) grade 1 students will be providing supports to those in need. Lizeth read aloud cards of thanks from some of those who have benefited from the school's most recent donations. The PAC thought it would be a good idea to scan these cards and put them in the weekly newsletters so that all parents can see the impact our donations make.
- **Eco-school Donations (Florence)** – The eco-committee students will decide what charity to support and donate to families in need in December. They will use the excess English-language books and send them abroad to a charity. More information to come on the charity that will be chosen by the students. Consideration is being given to donating money from buvette at the Christmas Market.

6. COUSTEAU EVENTS

- **Journée Internationale:** Feb 22/19. The teachers have communicated that they would like to have a school-wide potluck to honour this event. More information to come.
- **Eco-School (Florence):** Cousteau will receive the 'Green Flag' soon. Designates the school as FEE certified Eco-school. Eco-committee will host a school assembly to commemorate this distinction.

7. PAC EVENTS AND PROJECTS

- **PAC Events Calendar:** Reviewed PAC calendar of events to confirm what support is needed and where funds should be directed when fundraising. We will continue to review the balance of the year in the next meeting, but these events were discussed:
 - Merchandise (ongoing) – Tbd
 - Bon Appétit Day (Oct 12) - Eco-School
 - Two Rivers Meat (Nov 16-Feb 28) - Library
 - Winter Market/Buvette (Dec 21)– Eco School
 - Portraits (Dec 21) - Tbd
 - Talent Show (Apr 12) – Fundraising for college field trip
- **Movie Nights (Geraldine): (Gr. 4-8):** Melanie & Geraldine are chaperoning. They will screen a French-language movie, followed by a discussion (in French also).
- **Winter Market and/or Buvette:** Fri. Dec 21st. Volunteers needed for this. PAC will provide and sell refreshments. Proceeds will go to the Eco School, who will then, in turn, donate to charities abroad (re-searching).
- **Portraits (Michelle/Geraldine):** Fri. Dec 21st. Volunteers needed for this project.
- **Family Skating Day** – Geraldine will coordinate this for February.