

Home and School Meeting

Date: November 30, 2016

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Principal's report:

Staffing:

- New Secretary Helen Saraglou has been hired to replace Emily. Helen lives in the local area and is very excited to be a part of Withrow.
- We are still waiting on Board Approval to hire a new Head Caretaker. The old Head Caretaker has been transferred to Dundas P.S. on account of her specific skills that were more suited to that school.
- Ms. Cronyn is going on maternity leave shortly, and a replacement LTO teacher position is open. Might be a challenge to fill a mid year French Immersion spot. An advertisement has been placed, and interviews are underway.

Facility

- 10 new trees have been placed
- Dead trees will be removed in the spring
- School council met with visibility assessment team in order to investigate vendors for a new climber.
 - Climber costs must be paid for upfront and the funds are currently allocated within the budget.
 - Suggestion to have students vote for the style of climber once options have been narrowed down.
 - Plan is to have the climber installed by next fall 2017
 - Location of climber will be the “tree island”.
- The new field will open in the spring. The grass is a challenge to maintain especially during the “Spring Stomp”. To maintain the health of the grass the field will be diagonally fenced off every spring to ensure health of the grass.

Achievement

Learning Skills: Once the first report card is issued, teachers come together to take a closer look at what skills are missing. This year there will be a focus on Responsibility (Juniors) and Self Regulation (Primaries). These skills will be discussed through classroom initiatives, assemblies etc. A similar initiative in regards to learning skills was carried out 2 years ago with great outcomes.

□ EQAO:

- Most recent EQAO results were compared 2013 results on account of TDSB work to rule.
- There were concerns related to the Grade 3 Math score. A discussion was held regarding potential issues that might have affected the scores both that could and could not be controlled by the school:
 - A smaller sample of overall Grade 3 students, as French Immersion students do not take the entire test only the Math portion
 - Transient students in Grade 3 who might not be in the school for the entire year, and therefore not have the benefit of a year's worth of instruction
 - French Immersion students only take the Math portion of the test, and therefore do not have the additional testing experience that the English students have.
 - There was an overall decline in Math scores seen across the province
 - When teachers looked at the individual test question data – they were able to determine some areas that students faired poorly on such as – multistep questions, and questions where multiple pieces of learning needed to be combined to answer the question. As an outcome of this analysis, a greater emphasis will be placed on teaching students how to tackle these types of questions.
 - Withrow has been approved to work with Board certified Math Coaches who will help outline a specific Math strategy for the school.
 - There will be an overall Math Inquiry into the math skills of all grades, not just those affected by the EQAO.

□ Student Initiatives

- The last assembly focused on Empathy, and several students presented a variety of projects such as:
 - Coat Drives
 - Roots of Empathy Program
 - Visits with veterans at Sunnybrook

Lisa Pedersen presented on the H&S and School Council, as per slides (available on request):

□ Upcoming School Council Meeting Dates

- February 9, 2017
- March 30, 2017

- June 8, 2017
- Silent Auction
 - April 7, 2017
- Fun Fair
 - May 27, 2017

□ School yard update:

The yard is almost complete, with trees planted last week, irrigation system installed and asphalt track installed. The fencing will stay through the winter to ensure the grass continues to thrive.

Outstanding item: Lines will be painted on the track in the spring

□ Annual Giving Campaign

Letters went out to all Withrow families last week, with donations already coming in. Class reps were asked to promote the initiative via email and any other ways possible.

□ Fundraising Options

- Annual Giving Campaign
- Participating in school events (Silent Auction/Fun Fair)
- Fundraising with Everyday Purchases (all info on [Withrow H&S website](#))
- Shannon Curry to speak with Jillian Irving of Skyzone regarding Skyzone Gift Card fundraiser. The gift cards would be available for sale at the Holiday concert – with payment required on purchase.

A motion was passed to approve the purchase of up to \$300 worth Skyzone gift cards (maximum value of \$25/gift card), which would be available for sale at the Holiday concert. Gift cards would require payment at the time of purchase to avoid administration issues.

Motion moved by Lisa Pedersen, seconded by Lisa Rolland. Motion carried with no abstentions.

□ Discussion on reaching out to JK/SK and New Families to the school

Need more ways to reach out to JK/SK and New Families in order to provide information on the school and resources, and also harness

In attendance:

Shannon Curry

Carol Keizer

Eugenia Christakis

Kevin Robertson

Sheila Wong

Johan Lusic

Susanne Truelsen

Josette Chen

Suzanne Settino

Peter Wambera

Sherrie Manners

Oorbee Roy

Sandy McKenna

Monique Moran

Leigh Fuke

Lisa Rolland

Lisa Pedersen

Marianne Fenton