

Withdraw Home and School Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Principal's Report

- **Real Food for Real Kids Lunch Program**
 - Real Food For Real Kids will be offered on Mon, Tuesday, Friday, there will be **no RFFK on Thursdays**. Pizza day will continue to be held on the last Thursday of each month
- School Events
 - There is going to be an ongoing discussion to consider spreading out some of the school events – such as Silent Auction/Fun Fair/etc. so as to not overburden volunteer pool
- **New rules around Permits for use of school premises**
 - The TDSB now requires permits to be obtained for all activities taking place on school premises. The Principal has no discretion regarding the issuance of these permits. This change is in conjunction with a revision to Ministry regulations, which will now require permits to be governed by the Daycare Act. As such there are requirements for Permit holders to show proof of liability insurance, and meet the childcare-caregiver ratios as per the Daycare Act.
 - Lunch and After School Programs are affected by this new regulation around Permits – our program providers are currently working on determining how these regulations affect their programs. **As such there will be no lunch and after school programs during the first semester.**
 - ☞ Our provider who runs the Chess Club has been able to get a teacher to supervise the lunch time Chess Club program – therefore there is potential for the Chess Club to run one day a week this semester. The Chess Club is also working to offer off-site after school programming.
- **Upcoming Important Dates**
 - Progress Reports: November 15, 2017
 - PA Day – November 16, 2017
 - Parent Teacher : November 15 (evening), Nov 16 (morning)
- **Capacity Building for the upcoming year - Technology**
 - Each year a certain portion of the budget is geared towards Capacity Building – this allows teachers to be released to work on developing their practice. In the past this budget has been used for Math/Reading etc.
 - This year a portion of this budget will be put towards Technology. The school has a wide range of technology available at the school, and the goal is to ensure all teachers are provided with strategies to ensure the tech is being used meaningfully.
 - Currently there will be a focus on robotics and coding.

- **Arts Programs**
 - o Funds from the school budget and H&S go towards arts programs. The Arts Council will meet soon to discuss the plans for this year's Arts program
- **Field**
 - o The field continues to thrive and is an amazing resource for our school community.
- **Climber**
 - o Last year the students voted on a climber. This approved now going through a viability assessment. The H&S Chairpersons are working diligently to ensure the assessment moves along, as well as the budgetary confines are taken into consideration through these assessments.
- **EQAO**
- The latest EQAO scores were reviewed during the meeting.
- The Grade 3 results could be affected by the following:
 - o Only Grade 3 English students taken the Reading AND Math, while the Grade 3 French Immersion students only take the Math component. This imbalance in the student pool does affect our scores. There were also 8 Grade 3 students who opted to not take the test last year – which results in their scores being a 0, which could skew the results.
- The school is looking at ways to support students who are not meeting the provincial standard, as well as working with teachers (across all grades) on a variety of teaching strategies including giving teachers latitude to go beyond the curriculum, new testing methods etc.

Home and School Association

The Home and School Association provides the following:

- Liase with staff on arts and science programs
- Lost and found
- Organize after school and lunch programs
- Fundraising committees
- H&S Newsletter
- H&S Website and social media
- Work with administration on

The H&S Association conducts several fundraising events through the year, as well as several ongoing fundraising campaigns:

- Annual Giving Campaign
- Silent Auction
- Fun Fair
- Withrow Parent Dance
- Fundraising through everyday purchases (ongoing)
- Cobbs Bread Card

Fundraising through everyday purchases – This campaign is available throughout the year through the H&S website, where proceeds from purchases go towards the H&S Association. The campaign offers several items such as kids' labels, reusable lunch containers, Cobs Monthly Bread Card and - **NEW THIS YEAR - Shmooz Coffee Shop on Pape has partnered with the H&S Association to provide a \$10 card that can be used towards purchase of ground coffee and beans. Proceeds from the card will go to H&S Association. This fundraising initiative will start soon; more details to come in future H&S communications.**

H&S can be reached at withrowhands@gmail.com

Withrow's H&S Association also functions in tandem as School Council.

The Ministry requires School Councils to use all funds raised in a single school year, be used within that year. This is restrictive as it does not allow funds to be saved over multiple years to fund large capital projects – such as the field revitalization, etc. As such, Withrow chose to be a Home and School Association, which **does** allow funds to be held over several years. Withrow is therefore part of the Ontario H&S Federation, while also being a school council in order to work in conjunction with the board.

Role of Class Reps

- Communicate H&S/ Withrow admin to the parent community
- Send reminders regarding class deadlines and events
- Information delivery between teacher and parent community

Withrow Spirit Wear

The new TDSB Spirit Wear website is up and running. All purchases are now made online, with new styles and colour options.

NOTE** in some cases the website will default to Black or Grey colour options, don't forget to buy **Withrow Team Red** if students will be wearing the clothing for competitions.

H& S Event Dates:

Many of the H&S Events are all held during the end of the year – such as the Silent Auction, Fun Fair and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Given that many of the same volunteers help with all these events – we have seen significant volunteer drain by the end of the year. A discussion was had to determine whether we should move these events to space them out through the year, and what the idea new dates would be.

Silent Auction – currently held in April, allowing for volunteers to have enough time to get donations, and also not conflict with Pape/Jackman and Frankland who all have their Silent Auction in the Fall.

Fun Fair: Has always been held in May due to good weather

Proposal to consider moving Fun Fair to the fall (similar to Pape's Hoot 'n' Howl) or Silent Auction to another time.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon could be moved to April 13, 2018

This conversation will be ongoing, and a proposal was made to put potential date changes out to the Withrow Community for a vote (similar to what was done last year for the budget proposals)

New Council Member

- Laine Cole was approved as the Co-Chair for H&S Association 2016-2017
- The motion was proposed by Lisa Rolland, and seconded by Susanne Truelsen and Signe Silver

Discussion on English-French Student Population Numbers

A discussion was had to address the issue of a much larger French Immersion student population as compared the English student population. The H&S Association would like to look into this issue further through discussions with school and board administration/parent community/field experts to how to ensure the needs of the community are sufficiently and appropriately addressed.
