

Parent Connection Meeting Minutes – January 16th, 2024

In attendance: Tanis, Sara, Monica, Joe, Danae, Jani, Natasha, Kara, Julia, Patricia.

6:34pm meeting begins

Approval of minutes from November 2023.

- All in favour of approval.

Request for Student Leadership Group

- The student leadership group has requested the funds to purchase 30 funds.
- The committee has unanimously approved the funds to buy shovels.
- Jani to purchase the shovels for the students on behalf of Parent Connection.

Tanis shared principal's report:

1. **Enrolment** – currently at 220 students (6 new registrations during the first week of 2024!)
2. **Literacy in Pembina Trails, and at Royal School** – we believe:
 - All students can be successful literacy learners.
 - We are all literacy learners and all teachers are teachers of literacy.
 - Technology influences today's learners, who must be able to read, analyze, question, critique and express themselves knowledgeably and creatively, all within multiple, dynamic and changing literacy environments.
 - *Reading A-Z (online) – strategic investment*
 - *Specific lessons on internet safety (Kids in the Know)*
 - *Classroom sets of iPads (K-3/4)*
 - *Classroom sets of laptops (4-5)*
 - *Library sets of iPads, laptops, codable robots (Bee Bot, Dot and Dash)*
 - *Assistive technology for various students*
 - First languages and early experiences are the foundation for literacy development. It is important to honour and celebrate the unique, culturally and linguistically diverse experiences of our community.
 - *Library books in various languages (including Reading A-Z online)*
 - *Indigenous culture and language representation*
 - *EAL support through school support team as well as external agencies such as the N.E.E.D.S. Centre, Mosaic Newcomer Centre*
 - High expectations, coupled with early, ongoing, and targeted intervention are essential to ensure all learners achieve success.
 - *Strong Beginnings assessment days: Fountas and Pinnell benchmark instructional reading levels (systematic observation and assessment as one small part of literacy)*
 - *Guided Reading block in K-3/4 provides 30 minutes daily in the morning: "read to self", "read to others", small group targeted instruction, "word work"*
 - *Reading Recovery (grade 1); Leveled Literacy Intervention (gr.1-2)*
 - *Word Walls, "Words Their Way", Spelling, TUSC, the "Café" approach (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, Expand vocabulary)*
 - *School support team assessments: screenings for dyslexia, targeted interventions, SLP supports*
 - *EA – Rehabilitation Assistant – targeted support for almost 30 students in the building, including articulation support, fluency/stuttering support, targeted interventions, social communication supports*
 - High quality, ongoing, professional learning opportunities and dialogue are essential to support teachers in implementing effective literacy instruction.
 - *Teacher study group: decoding and encoding*
 - *Strategic investment: class budget for books for every homeroom*
 - *Strategic investment: purchase of books to use for targeted interventions in decoding/encoding*

- *Research based problem solving strategies:*
 - *Look at the picture and/or think about what makes sense.*
 - *Re-read and try the first sound.*
 - *Look for a part you know.*
 - *Make a link to a word you know (cat–catch; bed–sled).*
 - *Read on and come back.*
 - Effective instruction, designed to build hope and confidence, includes clear success criteria, ongoing assessment for learning and high quality, descriptive feedback.
 - Learners are most engaged and successful when they use metacognitive processes, including setting personal learning goals and understanding how they learn.
 - **Pilot Literacy School for the Division!** – Ms. Carlson (teacher Grace), Ms. Perche, and Ms. Thiessen have been chosen as one of 6 school teams piloting a universal literacy screener for the early years. We are excited to hear more about this pilot project from the division, and receive training over the coming months to provide feedback to the division on important next steps for literacy in Pembina Trails.
3. **Polar Bear Club** – Grace Carlson (teacher Grace) and Larena Dzik (Ms. Dzik) and Tanis Thiessen will be sending home letters to all parents, inviting students to participate in a “polar bear club”, dressing appropriately and going outside when it is colder than -27C. We have a divisional policy to keep students inside when the temperature (or windchill) becomes colder than -27C, however if we dress properly we can go outside and enjoy the cold weather too! Paper permission slips will be coming home soon to all families for this OPTIONAL recess and lunch club during colder weather.
 4. **Student Leadership Group** – Student leadership group is hoping for a donation of 15 small plastic snow shovels x 2 (total of 30), so that each hallway in our school has access to 15 shovels for recess use. The recess buddies program has been using them (and individual students too), and with lots of use there are a lot of broken shovels. Tanis has landed a grant to purchase some recess kits (balls, skipping supplies, frisbees, and more) for each classroom. So if Parent Connection can make the shovels happen, and when the grant items come in, classes should have all sorts of choices for outdoor recess again! (and we’ve got indoor recess sets of goodies too).

Treasurer Report (Joe)

- Fun lunch support fund up quite a bit since the last fun lunch.
- Vouchers have been created and distributed for families to anonymously access the fun lunch.
- We are hoping the vouchers will be used for the next fun lunch.

Fundraising Update (Monica)

Shelmerdine – we raised \$398.45 however we had to pay a \$29 deliver fee deducted from the profits. Our profits will be \$369.45.

GlenLea Spring Fundraiser – at this time Parent Connection has decided to take a break from this fundraiser this spring. We can revisit it next school year.

Fun Lunch Update (Danae)

- The Boston Pizza December fun lunch went well and was a big success.
- The digital form was better to use but took some initial work to set up.
- Next possible fun lunch. Tentative date: Wednesday, February 14th (Valentine’s Day)
- Danae is looking into Red Swan Pizza.
- Parent Connection is looking into adding a fun treat for Valentine’s Day.
- Pizza Express was brought up as a possible fun lunch option, however, they do not offer a vegan option.

Winter Family Night (Sara)

- Sara is looking to organize a LEGO Night for families to attend.
- A date is to be determined.
- Families can bring their own LEGO or Sara will bring LEGO for families to use at the event.
- Families will preregister for this event.
- Tanis to create a fact sheet about the benefits of LEGO play.
- A small canteen will be open by Parent Connection
- Sara to get the event details started.

Secretary role may need to be filled if Julia needs to step down. Kara has put her name forward if this spot becomes vacant.

Kindergarten information night for adults on Thursday, February 15th from 6-7. A few members from Parent Connection can briefly share at the meeting to inform parents about the committee.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:45 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 20th @ 6:30pm

Parent Connection Planning Meeting on January 31st from 5-7pm.