

# École South Pointe School Parent Advisory Council

## Administration Team Report

October 2, 2024

- **Staff changes**
  - Mme MacNeil is currently on a part-time leave of absence. Bonnie Bemister will continue in this role until Mme MacNeil is able to return.
  - Ms. Morrish started her maternity leave on Friday. Ms. Joseph will be continuing in the Grade 7 classroom role for the remainder of the year. Ms. Joseph was working part-time in another Grade 7 class with Ms. Demare. We are currently in the process of hiring someone for this role to work with Ms. Demare.
  
- **Orange Shirt Day/Truth and Reconciliation Week**
  - Last week our Orange Shirt Day Committee led our school in organizing assemblies and initiatives for deepening our understanding of Truth and Reconciliation. On Tuesday we had an outdoor assembly with the Four Directions Club, as well as our guests Chief Richard Hart (Chief of Bunibonibee First Nation), Valerie Houle (Knowledge Keeper and beadwork artist from Long Plain First Nation), and Connor Flett (Indigenous singer and drummer). On Thursday, we had members from the Aboriginal School of Dance come to share their gift of dance with us. This was also our orange shirt day to highlight the importance that “Every Child Matters”. Classes also continued the Calls to Action in the classrooms to deepen their learning.
  
- **Terry Fox Run**
  - Friday, we had our Terry Fox run. Students met in the gym to watch a video outlining the history of the Terry Fox run and to review the walk route. Ms. McIntosh encouraged everyone to continue to gather funds for cancer research. Currently, we have raised around \$1000, and our goal was \$3000. After the run/walk, students came back to the school playground and finished the afternoon dancing or playing before going home.
  
- **Strong Beginnings**
  - We had a very successful Strong Beginnings days. These days are important in understanding the students as learners and their areas of strength and

growth. Thank you to all of the families for ensuring their child/children arrived at school for their scheduled appointment.

- **Photos**

- Today we had the school photos for Grades 6-8. Tomorrow will be the school photos for Grades K-5.

- **Bike Safety**

- Students should be walking their bikes and scooters to the appropriate areas. If students are locking their bikes/scooters, we encourage a U-lock as they are more secure than a regular chain.

- **Mental Health Week**

- On the week of October 8, Mr. Thiessen and Mr. Dvorak organized a mental health week. During this week, we will be having assemblies teaching that for us to be mentally well, we need to be active, eat well, include art in our daily routine, have healthy relationships, and practice calming strategies.
- Family Wellness Evening – All families are invited to attend the October 9 at 7:00 pm family wellness evening focusing on the same teaching themes above. Information has gone home outlining this event.

- **Edsby Announcements**

- We will be starting to use Edsby Announcements that can be accessed by parents and families. This will allow families to review various club opportunities, reminders, etc.

- **Tri-Conferences**

- October 16 (4:00 – 8:00 pm) and October 17 (4:00 – 6:30 pm) will be our tri-conference times for families to meet with teachers. More information to schedule appointments will be sent out in the near future. This will be for Grades 1-8. Kindergarten families will be organizing conferences later in November due to additional assessment data that they are collecting.

- **Professional Development Days**

- October 7 and October 25 are two professional days. There will be no classes on these days as staff will be involved with training in various areas – code of conduct, cyber security, accessibility, Manitoba Teachers' Society professional groups.

- **Grade 8 Quebec Trip – Parent meeting**

- A parent meeting for the Grade 8 Quebec trip that will be held in May will be announced shortly. A tentative meeting date will be on October 23 but this will be confirmed in the parent communication.

- **Halloween**

- Students are welcome to wear costumes on Thursday, October 31 **in the afternoon?**; however, we want all students to feel safe. We ask that students to do not bring anything that could be perceived as a weapon. Masks are also discouraged.