

**St. Andrew's Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
6:45 pm, Library**

Co-Chairs	Amy Liu, Sonia Dhoofar	Principal	Marisa Cocco
Treasurer	Cecilia Lo	Vice Principal	Deborah Drape
Secretary	Denise Vavaroutsos		
Communications Coordinator	Natasha Kuzman		
Caring and Safe School Parent Rep	Michelle Jacobs		
Activity Coordinators	Senney Mark, Sonia Dhoofar, Sabrina Cheung		

Present: Marisa Cocco, Deborah Drape, Amy Liu, Cecilia Lo, Denise Vavaroutsos, John McCarthy, Randa El Sanyoula, Cerina Ivan

Regrets: Senney Mark, Sabrina Cheung, Michelle Jacobs

1.0 Welcome and Introductions, Amy Liu

Amy Liu welcomed the parents and called the meeting to order.

2.0 Approval of January 25, 2017 minutes, Denise Vavaroutsos

Motion to approve minutes as presented was moved by Cecilia Lo, seconded by Amy Liu, and approved by show of hands of those present.

3.0 Treasurer's Report, Cecilia Lo

Cecilia Lo reported that as of January 24, 2017:

- the bank balance was \$20,375.24
- Recent revenue: bake sale (\$661.55) and pizza lunch net profit (\$8,732.58) which was over the projected amount.
- Recent major expenses: paying for part of the math contest and dance program supporting the Phys Ed curriculum which were part of the Teacher's Wish List approved at the January 25, 2017 Parent Council meeting. Also, \$700 was spent toward the PRO Grant, leaving \$300 remaining from the PRO grant funds. There was discussion about the possibility of merging Pro Grant resources with feeder schools to combine parent opportunities. Marisa Cocco offered to reach out to Owen PS to enquire about their parent event.

Other funding sources available were also reported:

- Parent Council funds remain from the TDSB earmarked towards parent councils totalling \$615 (i.e., \$1.25/student)
- Ministry of Education funding of \$500 can be used for various school activities

There was discussion about the allocation of Parent Council funds towards graduation and year end activities such as the plaques, medallions and engraving costs for the awards assembly. In 2015/16, \$500 was used towards the cost of chair rental for 2 days. For 2016/17, \$2,000 has been budgeted. There was some discussion about other types of contributions which Parent Council can make towards the graduation and year end activities. It was decided that if a Parent Council surplus is

available at the end of the 2016/17 school year, then additional funds towards graduation and year end activities may be possible.

4.0 Principal's Report, Marisa Cocco

Marisa Cocco reported that she is currently working on enrollment projections for 2017/178. The Wish list ordering deadline is mid-February 2017, with most orders already placed. This week computers will be ordered. Planning for the grade 9 Spring Summatives are underway with meetings between teachers, principal/vice principal and curriculum leaders. The goal is to spread the Summative out from April to June. Each Summative is for a 2 week period and accounts for 30% of the final mark divided between an independent study project and an exam.

5.0 Vice-Principal's Report, Deborah Drape

Deborah Drape reported that Mr. Corbet has taken music groups to compete at the Kiwanis Festival. For the first time for St. Andrew's, the Jazz succeeded to go to the Nationals! Also, the Intermediate and Jazz bands were invited to submit a tape of their music for further competition assessment.

6.0 Teacher's Report, John McCarthy

John McCarthy reported that:

- Extracurricular clubs, sports, and arts activities continue to start up and run - for example, the Improv Club & the Art Club; the 12th annual SAJH school chess tournament got underway a couple of weeks ago and will have wrapped up by March Break.
- The Red Maple Reading program has been up and running since January. Best ever participation from students and staff. Best guess is over 100 students and 6 staff are reading so far. Programme runs until April 25.
- Several teachers have completed Positive Space training and we are now in the process of developing a positive space in room 110 and are ordering books, etc.
- the GSA has made posters and some announcements and undertook the t-shirt initiative for Pink Day....proceeds going to Skylark which is an organization which supports LGBTQ youth.
- Jazz Night, date t.b.d. based on the availability of the visiting group (late March early April). Need parent help with organizing the coffee and desserts, with training students to serve, setting up the tables.

Other key dates and activities reported included:

December 2016	
1 st	Activity Day Booklets went home; students chose an activity to participate in during the two Activity Days in January & February
7 th	HPA (High Performance Athletes) Parent Information Evening Romeo & Winifred morning performance for visiting schools & HPA students; afternoon for SAJH students
8 th	Romeo & Winifred performances afternoon and evening
14 th	First Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations [Grade 7 (boys and girls) = Hepatitis B and Meningococcal Vaccines; Grade 8 (girls only) = Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV)] Arts Night
15 th	SAJH Secondary Programme Information Night – originally scheduled The Information evening was moved to Wednesday, January 18th, 2017 due to adverse weather conditions on the original date
19 th	Staff-Student Games: Staff vs Boys Volleyball team

21 st	Staff-Student Games: Girls Basketball team
22 nd	First Grade 8 skating trip
23 rd	Annual Holiday Assembly [Periods 6-7]
26 th - Jan 6 th	Winter Break
January 2017	
9 th	School resumes
12 th	"After Grade 6" Parent Info Night & School Open House
18 th	SAJH Secondary Programme Information Night – re-scheduled date
25 th	Internet safety Workshop for students [parent workshop in the evening]
26 th	Activity Day #1
Jan 30 th – Feb 3 rd	Dental Screening
February 2017	
2 nd	Activity Day #2
3 rd	Semester subjects begin Semester 2 classes
6 th	Delegation of teachers from Saudi Arabia visiting the school Grade 7 & Grade 8 school teams competing in our first Kids' Lit Quiz Competition
6 th – 22 nd	Kiwanis Music Festival [7 excursions by students to compete during this period] Kiwanis Music results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Junior Concert Band - 90%, Gold Standard, 2nd of seven more experienced bands o Intermediate Band - 91%, Gold Standard, 2nd of twenty more experienced bands o Senior Band - 91%, Gold Standard, 1st of three more senior high school bands o Senior Band - 92%, Platinum Standard, 3rd of five more grade 9 high school bands o Jazz Ensemble - 94%, Platinum Standard, 1st of three bands o Jazz Combo - 93%, Platinum Standard, 1st o Intermediate Band and Jazz Ensemble have been asked to represent the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival at the provincial level o Jazz Ensemble is competing at the Humber College Next Generation Jazz Ensemble with the hopes of being invited to perform in Niagara Falls at the National MusicFest competition in May
7 th – 8 th	<i>Tour for Humanity</i> workshops for Grade 7s and 8s Workshops postponed until June due to mechanical issues with <i>Tour for Humanity</i> bus
10 th	Report Cards go Home [Grade 7 & 8 - Term 1; Grade 9 - Term 2] The Stand Up Club organized a "hats on, heat down" eco-challenge.
14 th	Valentine's Day Dance & Alternate Activities; Bake Sale
15 th	Black History Presentation/Performance
16 th	Grade 9 Grad Pictures
21 st	Math Contest - 120 participants [Thanks to Parent Council for supporting this initiative by paying for registration every year]
22 nd	Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day
March 2017	
2 nd	Drama Showcase 2 [showcase of work from our 7 & 8 classes]
7 th	the French Department is organizing a public speaking contest <i>Le Concours d'art oratoire</i> with grade 7 and 8 students. This event is an opportunity to integrate public speaking into regular classroom activity. We will have a school-level contest on March 7th. The 1st place winner is eligible to move on to the provincial event at Glendon campus. In the lead-up to the event, French teachers meet with interested students in the morning or at break to help with writing the speeches.
9 th	Second Grade 8 skating trip

11 th – 19 th	Winter Break
April 2017	
19 th	Next Parent Council Meeting – 6:45 P.M.
24 th	Grade 8 Trip to the Science Centre [Grade 7s also hoping to book a trip]

7.0 Student Leadership Council Report

The following report was received with thanks.

- December: Candygrams sales were a big success over the holidays. They were given out to Student Reps and handed out to students during period 1 on Wednesday, December 21st.
- Friday, December 23rd – the last day of school before Christmas holidays was also a Spirit day. Students and staff were encouraged to wear clothing and accessories that symbolize their favourite Winter Holiday.
- January, 2017 – We did not have any events planned for this month, however, met with student reps to plan and organize for two events happening in the month of February.
- February 14th, 2017: Valentine’s Dance was a big success. All students really enjoyed the dance. There were alternate activities available for students who were not interested in dancing. Parent volunteers organized a bake sale which was a great success as well.
- Monday, February 27th, SPCA cupcake day: We are fundraising for Ontario SPCA together with the Stand Up Committee by requesting teachers and parents to volunteer to bake cupcakes for Monday, February 27th, which will go on sale for \$1.00 each. We are also in the need of at least four parent volunteers (2 for each lunch periods (4 and 5)) to supervise student volunteers during the sale of the cupcakes. There will also be friendly competition among teachers for “best decorator”. All the money collected will be donated to Ontario SPCA. If volunteering, please send names to Ms. Hochberg. Many thanks!

Action: Cecilia Lo to connect with Natasha to send an email to parent volunteers to promote the need for volunteers.

8.0 Discussion, Amy Liu

8.1 After School Activities/Programs

Many activities are run after school. There is potential to start up a Robotics Club.

8.2 Graduating students legacy gift

Discussion ensued about opportunity for the graduation class to leave behind a legacy gift for the school and use by future students. It was noted that this has not been a practice at the school in the past. There was some thought that part of the money raised by the Student Council could be for giving back to the school. Marisa Cocco offered to follow up with the Student Council regarding options.

The discussion broadened about other possible use of the Parent Council surplus funds or specific fundraising that could go towards significant purchases for school-wide use, such as components for an outdoor classroom, bench, etc. One idea raised was to revisit the practice of the Teacher's Wish List, recognizing that this year there were significant investments in technology and classroom supplies made. Instead, funds can be used to contribute towards new investments such as better use of the outdoor space. Marisa Cocco offered to follow up on options.

8.3 Communication Strategies to Increase Parent Engagement

Amy Liu and Cecelia Lo reported that they attended the TDSB Parent Council training about parent engagement. Discussion ensued about the purpose of parent engagement and types of engagement opportunities. When there is a purpose, it can be easier for parents to get engaged. Also, types of engagement can go beyond fundraising. Some ideas generated were:

- Hold a parent workshop about the Blueprint tool used by students to plan courses and career strategy
- Ask the teachers what support parents can provide from home to their children that would make the classroom a better learning environment. For example, some teachers have blog/edu-modules to keep parents up to date. These can be very useful.

9.0 New Business

Sonia Dhoofar has submitted her resignation. The Parent Council thanked Sonia for her contribution this year, in particular the planning of the PRO grant speaker event.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 @ 6:45 pm in the Library