

SJA Parent Council Meeting
September 18, 2012
Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Danielle D'Amico

ÿ Danielle introduced our new school principal Victoria White

Opening prayer was lead by Principal Tory White (and read by all present)

ÿ Principal Tory White then thanked everyone for the Welcome Breakfast

Prayer was followed by an around the table introduction of everyone present

Principal's Report (Victoria White)

ÿ it has been a busy first 11 days at her new school

ÿ she is getting to know her staff and the students

ÿ 308 students currently enrolled at SJA - there may have to be some reshuffling of classes in order to meet ministry caps (with the goal being to keep the shuffling to a minimum)

ÿ New Staff: Victoria White (Principal), Kristina Wilman "Miss Nina" (office administrator), plus three new Education Assistants

ÿ 2011-2012 EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) Results of our Grade 3 & 6 testing from last spring were distributed to all present

Grade 3: Reading 75% (Board 71%), Writing 84% (Board 83%), Math 84%
(Board 74%)

Grade 6: Reading 93% (Board 80%), Writing 90% (Board 82%), Math 78%
(Board 64%)

ÿ New Board Two Year Theme: "By Our Works We Show Our Faith" - Principal White is asking her staff how we can bring this theme alive in our school

ÿ Program Night (Sept. 19, 6:30pm) - meet in the gym for a quick introduction of Principal White to the parents then proceed to classrooms for two sessions starting at 7:00 and 7:30pm (beginning of second session to be announced)

ÿ Teacher Rep on Parent Council will this year be done on a month to month rotation - teachers will sign up for a month to come to the parent council meeting

ÿ Terry Fox Walk - Monday September 24 (rain date Tuesday)

Theme: "Crazy Socks for Terry Fox"

Route: perimeter of playground

ÿ Boys and Girls Soccer already underway

ÿ School Masses have been tentatively booked through Kara Kinahan (Lay Pastoral Associate at SJA Parish) with Father Tom Riopelle

Chair's Report (Co-Chairs Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin)

- ÿ Thanks to Louise Hennessy for organising Welcome Breakfast - a huge success!
- ÿ First Catholic Student Parents' Association (CSPA) meeting September 26, 7:30pm
- ÿ First Parenting Now Symposium October 27
- ÿ 2011-2012 Yearbook Update: (coordinator Pam Dupuis, not present)
 - Format and layout were completed three days before school ended in June (but had not gone to printer). 60 yearbooks were pre-ordered before the end of school.
 - Co-Chairs have presented Pam with 3 options (deadline Sept. 21): 1. cancel and refund money to 60 who pre-ordered in June; 2. send letter home to give more families opportunity to order a 2011-2012 yearbook; 3. just print the 60 that were ordered already.
 - If Co-Chairs do not hear back from Pam by Friday the money will be refunded to the 60 that pre-ordered before school ended. Next meeting we will know more.

Treasurer's Report (Lorrie Sweet)

- ÿ Last school year we started with a deficit of \$1000 but had other funds to cover expenses
- ÿ This year we are starting with \$1300 in the bank
- ÿ Parent Involvement Grant (PIC) is coming (that will cover the expense of the Welcome Breakfast)
- ÿ Summary of Money earned by council last year: QSP \$3800, Pizza \$2900 (down from previous years), Calendar Lottery \$4200 - Purchased two more smart boards for the school

Catholic School Parents' Association (CSPA) Report (Megan Fox)

- ÿ Parenting Seminars put on by CSPA - 2 per year (worth attending, very informative)
- ÿ CSPA meetings - anyone can go to learn what is happening at the board level; meetings are held every 4th Wednesday of the month

Focus Item: Dogs in Park (Jane O'Regan)

- ÿ Valleystream East park that attaches to our school property is currently a no-dog park
- ÿ A petition has been signed by at least 25 people for the park to become an off leash dog park
- ÿ we have until September 21, 2012 to submit our opposition to this proposal
- ÿ Jane's "gut feeling" is that it will not go as there are many groups against this proposal, including: Lesley Park Community Association, Valley Stream Community Association, SJA school, Victoria White (SJA Principal), Rick Chiarelli (City of Ottawa Councillor College Ward), SJA Parent Council
- ÿ Jane then read our letter to be submitted to Mr. Belanger-Hebert with the city of Ottawa

Focus Item: Nominations (Co-Chairs Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin)

The new council for the school year 2012-2013 as decided by all present at the meeting:

Co-Chair: Danielle D'Amico
Co-Chair: Doris Parolin
Vice-Chair: Rose Hunt
Secretary: Kerri Courville

Treasurer: Lorrie Sweet

Grade Reps:

JK: Sarah Drader (to be confirmed, not present)

SK: Andrea Guzzo

1: Louise Hennessey

2: Julie Peplinskie

3: Rosemary Chiarelli

4: Miek Van Gaalen (to be confirmed, not present)

5: Tracey Knudson

6: Diana Masiero (to be confirmed, not present)

Parish Rep: Marcella Sousa

CSPA Co-Reps: Megan Fox and Kelly Torrance

Community Rep: Jane O'Regan

Teacher Rep: rotating

Principal: Tory White

Focus Item: Council Initiatives (Co-Chairs Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin)

ÿ Meetings

ÿ Pizza

- coordinator Betty Marchington (not present)

- runs every 2nd Wednesday (starts Oct. 3)

- looking for parent volunteers to help with dividing out and distributing pizza to the classes (a 45 minute commitment every 2nd Wednesday)

ÿ Lunch Lady (www.thelunchlady.ca)

- this is a service offered by Council (we do not make money)

- a big success

- runs every Friday (starts Oct. 12)

- notice has already gone home to parents

ÿ Fundraising (council is allowed 2 fundraisers per year)

ÿ Welcome Breakfast (early September)

- coordinator Louise Hennessey

ÿ PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant - up to \$1000 available from the board

- must submit a yearly proposal in the spring to receive PRO grant

- for last year's grant we received \$650

- will host a yearly event for parents and students using these funds

ÿ PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Grant - \$500 from the board

- every school gets this grant

- we use this money to fund our Welcome Breakfast

ÿ Advent Mass (December)

- SJA school organises an advent mass at SJA church for our families

- after the mass there is a reception in the church hall organised by council (notes go home asking families to donate a plate of nut-free baking and council supplies coffee and other beverages)

ÿ Gift of Reading (December)

- Coordinator Shari Scott

- A council idea that was started a few years ago - Parents who want to give their child's teacher a Christmas gift could donate money that would go to SJA library. Then a card would be sent home for the child to decorate and sign to give to the teacher in lieu of a gift, stating that a donation had been made to the SJA library in their honour.

ÿ Winter Dance

- usually in SJA church basement in Jan/Feb
- looking for a coordinator
- very popular with the kids

ÿ Spring Schoolyard Cleanup

ÿ Spring BBQ

- hugely successful event
- coordinator needed

ÿ Lending Library

- at front of school
- parenting books to borrow

ÿ Wishing Well

- idea is not working well
- Rosemary Chiarelli to look into it and redesigning

ÿ Yearbook

- looking for a coordinator
- a lot of work, it was suggested that perhaps we need a yearbook committee

Danielle D'Amico to send an email to parents with a list of Council initiatives that will be dropped unless we find a coordinator for them

Focus Item: Funds Focus and Fundraising (Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin)

* council needs to decide what we are raising funds for this year *

ÿ last year our two fundraisers were QSP (magazines) and the Calendar Lottery

ÿ new fundraiser this year to be DFS Catalogues in November (www.dfscanada.com/brochures)

ÿ not doing the Calendar Lottery this year

ÿ MOTION from Co-Chair Danielle D'Amico to drop QSP as a fundraiser, as proceeds continue to decrease every year - motion PASSED by council

ÿ in Summary: DFS to be council's main fundraising initiative in November, cancel QSP, and decide in the spring on another fundraiser (if necessary)

ÿ Co-Chairs Danielle and Doris met with Principal White a few weeks ago to discuss results of last year's parent survey re. what parents think SJA school needs. Results:

#1: outdoor equipment (not a lot of money required - doesn't need a fundraiser, can be covered elsewhere)

#2 & 3: music and the arts

ÿ Principal White reported that the teachers are very interested in increasing technology in the school

ÿ Jane O'Regan suggested that maybe "The Gift of Reading" needs revisiting because now school libraries will be able to share books within the board so not as many books will need to be purchased

- money could be used elsewhere

- rename "Gift of _____" to be chosen by Principal White

- ÿ Teachers' yearly allowance to continue, receipts still required
- ÿ Co-Chair Danielle D'Amico to send out an email to parents that Council's fundraising initiative will be "Arts & Culture in the School" and ask parents "what does the Arts mean to your child?"

Focus Item: Head Lice (Co-Chairs Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin)

- ÿ discussion lead by Jane O'Regan
- ÿ head lice affects every school, community, family, household
- ÿ check your kids regularly
- ÿ Principal White summarized SJA's head lice policy: when there is a reported case of head lice, a letter will go home to the class of the affected student, as well as to the class of any siblings of the affected student - as long as the child is treated, they can come back to school (no live lice)
- ÿ Jane O'Regan suggested getting a public health nurse into the school to check the students on a regular basis
- ÿ Principal White stated that so far this school year, there has been one reported case of head lice

Discussion/Questions

- ÿ Marcella Sousa (works for Canadian Food Inspection Agency) - brought food safety activity workbooks for the teachers to give out to their students
- ÿ Julie Peplinskie asked about a milk program at SJA - Council was approached last year about starting a milk program and decided against it at that time
 - In Summary - space for refrigerator needed - requires daily parent volunteers - milk cannot be given to a class where a milk allergy exists - messy when a child doesn't finish their milk - goes against "Boomerang Lunches" where we are trying to teach the kids to reduce waste
- ÿ Andrea Guzzo told council that her sister (Natalie) is in the marketing department with the National Arts Centre (NAC) Orchestra and suggested Natalie as a contact person for Principal White and the teachers if there are any classes planning on going to the NAC this school year
- ÿ Meeting Adjourned, 8:40pm

Next meeting Tuesday, October 9, 7:00pm

SJA Parent Council Meeting September 18, 2012 - Attendance

	Name	email	students at SJA
1	Louise Hennessy	louisehennessy@storm.ca	Ian (Gr.3), Jason (Gr.1)
2	Kerri Courville	kerricourville@yahoo.ca	Joshua (Gr. 1), Matthew (JK)
3	Doris Parolin	dnaparolin@rogers.com	Adam (Gr. 6), Anna (Gr. 3)
4	Julie Peplinskie	gwjmp@hotmail.com	Madisson (Gr. 2)
5	Shari Scott	shariannscott@gmail.com	Bruce (Gr. 2), Colin (SK)
6	Mary Ann Hansen	live_and_grow@yahoo.ca	Grace (Gr. 2)
7	Kelly Torrance	torrance.kelly@gmail.com	Jacob (Gr. 3)
8	Victoria White	victoria.white@ocsb.ca	Principal
9	Paul Valin	pavalin@magma.ca	Neil (Gr. 4)
10	Andrea Lehman	guzzopr@rogers.com	Kenzington (SK), Kirk (Gr. 2)
11	Mari Dressler	kbmj.d@cookes.ca	Keenan (Gr. 3), Bramm (Gr. 6)
12	Paula McKee	paula.mckee@ocsb.ca	Noah (Gr. 6), Annie (Gr. 6) Bender
13	Rosemary Chiarelli	rmchiarelli@gmail.com	Hannah (Gr. 6), Oran (Gr. 3)
14	Jane O'Regan	markandjane@rogers.com	Abby (Gr. 6), Nathan (Gr. 5)
15	Megan Fox	foxes@primus.ca	Susie (Gr. 4)
16	Lisa DeRooy	lisaderooy@rogers.com	David (Gr. 6)
17	Janice Tario	j.tario@hotmail.com	Hannah (Gr. 6), William (Gr. 3)
18	Marcella Sousa	amsousa@295.ca	Anthony (Gr.2), Francesca (SK)
19	Cheryl Thompson	thethompsons@jncinc.ca	Brady (Gr. 4)
20	Mary Whiting	maryleawhiting@yahoo.ca	Alex (Gr. 4),
21	Danielle D'Amico	danielle.damico@sympatico.ca	
22	Lorie Sweet	lorrie.sweet@telus.blackberry.net	
23	Rose Hunt	rose.hunt@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca	
24	Mary Jo Latour		September teacher rep (Gr. 3)