

Trafalgar PAC Meeting

Date: October 8, 2013

Attendees:

Cheryl Gravkin (Chair), Kate Power (Co-chair), Lorie Srivastava, Bronwyn Maclean, Jill Brumwell, Sarah Levine, Chantal Boby, Nicole Mordant, Tracy Pressey, Michelle Gemmill, Shadi Nayi, Andrew Konetzka, Sheila Au

Call to Order: 7:15 pm

Minutes from last meeting September 10, 2013 were distributed.

Approval of minutes: Motion to approve: Sarah L. Seconded: Nicole M. All in favour. Motion passed.

Information about the Trafalgar Out of School Care Society (TOOSCS) and how it can benefit our Trafalgar community: Presentation by Bronwyn Maclean, Manager and Trafalgar Mom:

- Privately owned building on VSB property, right next to school
- am and pm care available for school-aged children
- The preschool runs from 9:15-11:15, 20 students and 3 teachers
- There is a high teacher to student ratio
- 118 Trafalgar kids currently use the facility
- ECE trained teachers who are caring and enthusiastic
- Not for profit program
- Snack, breakfast included
- Great field trips
- Many programs ie: Homework club Mon-Thurs, swimming lessons, dodge ball, chess club, knitting club
- Fun summer program
- Cost very reasonable

What you may not know about TOOSCS: TOOSCS is here for families and will try to cater to your child care needs, very flexible scheduling available. **Drop-ins are available:** You don't have to be members ie week-long temporary child-care; pro-D days (all food provided); last minute child-care after or before school, contact Bronwyn at tooscsmanager@gmail.com. **You just need to fill in some paperwork regarding your child and you can be set up for these last minute child care opportunities.**

Open 7:30 am to 6 pm.

Website: www.tooscs.org

Vice-Principal Report - Sarah:

-1500 dollars raised for Terry Fox run; huge success; may do a similar run once a month. Teachers excited about this. Theme days are being considered.

-Cross Country also gone very well; last meet is soon

-Fire Safety week this week for primaries

-“Great Shakeout” - **Oct 17** – Earthquake Drill

-“Funmobile” will be visiting **Oct 15** – tents, free play, roving mobile unit, half hour per class

-ipad carts – we have had them for a few months and are hugely popular. Demos and more teaching about how the ipads can enhance our children’s education are coming in the fall.

Principal’s report: Adele

- Things have settle in nicely at the school
- 119 ESL students currently
- 31 Special needs students
- 523 children total in the school

For grade 7 parents, **applications for mini schools**, etc happening throughout November. These applications include cognitive testing for all applicants in December. In January, high school visits start.

K registration going to be different this year: More information to follow in upcoming newsletters.

Overall, almost all children who have registered for French Immersion have been accepted over the past few years. This is good news.

“Big hole” on property – VSB working on it – it will finally be filled in soon, the work is moving along.

Liam’s dedication bench is now present on the property. It is in an ideal location for such a meaningful and heartfelt tribute to our classmate. A small dedication ceremony will be held by Liam’s classmates, teachers and close friends.

Volleyball: Enough kids are interested for 4 teams and there are 4-5 teacher volunteers. No teams have been created yet, there has been no formal registration, and registration is still open to any senior children. Grades 5-7 children, boys and girls, are eligible. **If children are still interested in being on a volleyball team, there will be information in the upcoming newsletter this Friday October 11, registration information, etc.** It was requested by PAC members that enough advance notice for registration for intramural activities be given to parents.

There was a brief discussion regarding parent volunteers. VSB requests criminal record checks are required and there is a more rigorous “application” process than before in order to try and ensure student safety.

Basketball starts in January.

Other activities coming up in the year: Track and Field

Chair report – Cheryl Gravkin

Mural: Sean, Suzanne and Elizabeth have almost finished the mural and it looks beautiful. Thank you very much to our artists, the children and parents who participated!! We need a little more parent time for outlining – information to follow.

Pocket market Oct 9 2:30-3:30. 250\$ profit from previous markets!!

Grants are being sought for greening and for apple trees.

Film project: The film project presentation at the last PAC meeting was met with great enthusiasm. Proposal is being considered: All kids in grades 5-7 would be involved in this project, on site, with 2 facilitators working with the teachers and students. It is a week- long educational program, during school hours. Involves critical thinking, writing skills, managing cyberbullying, being a wise consumer, story-writing and film production and creation. Teachers are very interested in pursuing this opportunity for their students.

Inuit author visit – This was discussed at the previous meeting and was thought to be a good adjunct to the Inuit project. Mme. Elly has advocated for this this event. Motioned to approve, Bronwyn M. Seconded by Lorie S. All in favour of this visit and opportunity. Motion approved. The PAC will cover the \$800 cost.

DPAC rep Karen Sadler – unable to attend, but sends a reminder of the **Oct 17 Citywide PAC meeting**. Please consider being Treasurer or Chair in the future – there are workshops available on how to prepare for these positions.

Walk to school: It's been a great week of health and prizes! Lucy Chang has generously offered to do bike safety checks again for free for us. Thank you Lucy.

Communications:

Newsletters are posted on the school website. Print copies are available. 300 people have signed up for the email newsletter. If you are not getting newsletters, **please subscribe to our mailing list at:**
<http://trafalgarpac.ca/school-wide-signup/>

We are on Twitter and it would be great to have more followers.

Hallowe'en Party: Please join our Hallowe'en party planning committee, the event is **Tuesday Oct 29, 6-8 pm**. We need an enthusiastic group. The party is usually an amazing time and the kids so look forward to it. If you are interested, please contact our ghoulish organizer Andrew Konetzka, email: agarage@shaw.ca.

Please also volunteer for clean-up after even if you are unable to join the planning committee. Minimal commitment required but a huge help!

School PAC fundraising:

Direct Appeal has started. Please donate to the PAC. We hope to raise 20,000 dollars this year. Donations should be made by cheque. Any amount is appreciated. There will be bags in each classroom for the cheques. All the money goes towards bettering our school and providing supplies and equipment to our students.

Treasurers report: Presented briefly by Cheryl in Stephanie's absence. Budget meeting will take place at the next PAC meeting, Monday Nov 18. Motion to approve financial statements made by Lorie S, seconded by Michelle G.

Arts Umbrella is up and running and it is going well! There is space in the intermediate program if your child is still intersted. The junior program is full.

Next hot dog day is Oct 18 – last hot dog day we raised about \$800!!

Basketball shorts – funds were requested for the senior team. Discussion deferred to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Next meeting is Monday, November 18.

Events Committee

Direct Appeal – Elisa Campbell

Treasurer

Upcoming Calendar:

Pocket Market Oct 9 230-330

Walk to School Week Oct 7-11

Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser – Marty Popischil - Mon Oct 28 230-430

Hallowe'en carnival and dance Tues Oct 29 6-8 pm

Hallowe'en clean up Friday Nov 1

Next PAC meeting Nov 18 7-830 pm

Presentation from Liz Schulze from Vancouver Cinematheque

-Liz presented challenges facing kids (and parents) about media literacy

-educational programs are available with Vancouver Cinematheque to make students more critical and informed

Cost is \$600/day/class, Limited by schedule

Feasible to do whole school, she suggests to do different projects for each division.

We need to figure out our goals and Liz can make it work.

Presentation from Mme Elly regarding visit from Inuit author Micael Kusuguk

-Gr 4's do an Inuit project each year in early January

-author will visit in January for ½ day if enough schools book him

-will come with clothes, props and their experiences

-cost \$800 for ½ day visit

Meeting

Approval of minutes from June meeting . Motioned to approve, Sarah Levine. Seconded by Karen Sadler

Principal's Report from Adele

-regarding hole in front yard: the plan now is to install a sump pump and the work is out for tender and it should be done by January

-numbers are very strong in both English and French this year

-Catherine and Judy who do Div 2 have covered Div 3 so that the class doesn't have a TOC until a teacher is hired

-next week ELL parent orientation

-Meet the Teacher is next Tuesday. In addition to each classroom teacher's two presentations, the Resource, gym and computer teachers will also present to parents.

-focus this year will be to keep ELL parents in the loop.

-New school website will go live next week. VSB standard

-possibility that support staff may go on strike. They are in negotiation. Adele is optimistic that they will come to terms. Not sure what the strike would look like. Cross that bridge when we get to it.

VP report – Sarah

-she has a background in counseling, she came from Surrey

-Cross-country meet at Trout Lake is October 17th. She has a meeting tomorrow and will update when she gets more dates

-Monitors are signing up tomorrow.

-There is a parent who is going to do a primary volleyball. Details to follow.

-Adele/Sarah to send an email with blocks of athletics so that we can find parent volunteers.

-Michelle Gemmill has organized Arts Umbrella to come into the school for an after school drama class. Hour-long program. She is Meeting tomorrow with Arts Umbrella. Most likely there will be an Intermediate group and primary group.

Chair Report – Cheryl Gravkin

Need to Approve positions for executive:

Chair – Cheryl Garkin

Co-Chair-Kate Power

Treasurer- vacant

Secretary- Liz Hudson, Sheila Au

Dpac rep- Karen Sadler

Communication- Nicole Mordant, Rachelle Kanefsky

Communications Graphics: Sean Thompson

Technical support: John Bowyer-Smith

Greening Committee Chair: Suzanne Fielden

Greening committee: Jessica McAlpine, Vicki B.

Direct Appeal: Elisa Campbell

Events Coordinator: Vicky Buttery

Movie Night coordinators: Sarah Levine, Michelle Gemmill, Chantal Bobyn

Hot Lunch: Rup Kang, Gord Lau, Lori Srivastava

Hot Lunch Helpers: Joanne Fix, Pennie George, Faye Liu, Jessica McAlpine, Jess Chen.

School Planning Committee: Lorie Srivastava, Karen Sadler.

Scholastic Book Fair: no volunteer

Performing Arts Programming: Yasmeen Strang, Tamara Levy.

Playground Committee: Karen Sandler, Marie-France Leroi.

International Dinner: Bronwyn Maclean

Fruit and Veggie program coordinator: Holly

Fruit and Veggie Helper: pennie

Sports Coordinator: Stephanie, Karen Sandler, Anne

Gr 7 Trip Coordinator: Teena Sim

Pac Kitchen Coordinator: Bronwyn

Safe Arrival Coordinators: Jane Caddick, Cherie McBeth

Technology Committee: Azool Jeraj, CJ Wu, Ray Miya, Gord Lau.

English Learner Liaison/Translator: Jessica Dong, Lucy Chang, CJ Wu.

Bronwyn motioned approval of positions.

Seconded by Lori.

Hot Lunch Report

-committee is talking to vendors about food delivery so that parents can order online

- mac and cheese and mac and cheese and tomato sauce and will do taste test on Friday

-Lori has spoken to many vendors

-this fall try out vendors once a month this fall to decide what works and go with it

-one option is gluten-free pizza, noodle dish

-reaching out to ELL with translated online instructions

-parents can pay by paypal and cheque. Preference for the PAC is for parents to order online and pay online.

-Discourage last minute cash-payers by giving a notice that orders must be made in advance but will still accept some last minute orders if there is food available.

Quebec Trip - Tina

We apply for a grant to match us with a school in Quebec for an exchange school.

Grant covers travel costs for students and staff.

Last year every student went to Quebec.

Mural

-Sean has done half of the background

-next stage is to release the intermediate artists on the mural to do outline during Earth Bites tomorrow and next Wednesday

-following week solid painting pairing an intermediate student with primary student

-need parents to help for five intense days

Treasury Report-

See budget for more details.

Highlights:

-Year end budget 57, 738, 00. 30K we have allocated for playground. Net funds for use \$27, 738.98

-41% of our funds came from direct appeal

-22% came from hot lunch

23% of our Net expenses went to technology

16% of our net expenses went to arts

Motion to approve year end budge: Lori

Secoded : Gord Lau. All in favour.

Need to approve Teacher's Discretionary Fund of \$6800.

Motioned to approve Teachers' Discretionary Fund, Rup motioned, Bethany seconded. All in favour.

Gord Motioned to approve \$500min-\$1500 max to hire person to oversee painting on mural (mon, September 23rd-mon, September 30th. Second Rachele. All in favour.

Performances for school for \$300, Bethany motioned to approve, Karen second. All in favour.

Aboriginal Garden received a grant but had money remaining. Motion to spend balance of \$1392 on the garden. Motioned by Tina, Secoded by Lori. All in favour.

Dates

September 20th – hot dog day

Hot lunch- October 4th

Meet the Teacher is Tuesday, 17th

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Next meeting October 8th