

Maple Grove PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 21st, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: School Library

PAC Executive Attendees: Tim Luu (Co-Chair), Mary Ann Lo (Co-Chair); Joel Korn (Co-Treasurer), Freida Mak (Co-Treasurer), Winnie To (Secretary), Michelle Palibroda (Secretary), Mable Chia (Secretary), Nellie Wong (Secretary), Lavina Yuen (DPAC Representative), Ivy Leung (Co-Fundraising Coordinator), and Miranda Deis (Montessori Committee Chair)

1. Call to Order

MOTION was made for the Adoption of the Agenda by Tim Luu – MOVED by Cathy Cleveland and SECONDED by Winnie To. Motion passed.

2. Welcome Message from Co-Chairs

All the parents in attendance introduced themselves with their name, names of their children, and length of time at Maple Grove.

3. Administrators' Report: Dr. Phillips & Mrs. Weatherall

- Dr. Phillips reported on the new registration deadlines and procedures for kindergarten this year (implemented to help minimize the conflicts arising from parents registering in multiple programs). The time frame for new K registrations will be from November 2, 2009 until January 31, 2010. All Kindergarten children will be offered a spot or wait listed by February 19, 2010 and all spaces in Kindergarten must be confirmed and accepted by February 26, 2010. This new policy is in effect until the end of June, 2010. Maple Grove's Open House for prospective Kindergarten parents will take place December 7 from 9:30 to 10:30 for both the regular and Montessori programs.
- Mad Science is taking place for intermediate students this term, and primary students will have an opportunity to take the program in term two.
- Walk to School Week was October 5-9. Student ambassadors greeted the students and their parents who were coming into the school by foot this week. Debbie Lam was the teacher co-coordinator for this event.
- Oral Language Development is one of the major school goals this year. Children are working on their oral language skills through, for example, presentations or class reports. Joanne Randle is a new parent at Maple Grove and works with Toastmasters. She has offered to work with classes to give teachers and students support in this area.
- The District Cross Country Meet will take place on October 22 at Trout Lake; the Kilometre Club at the beginning of the school year spurred on a lot of new interest and excitement about running.
- Ms. Wittrin has signed her class up for the Great Canadian Spelling Bee.

- For Halloween, students have been told to avoid wearing “violent” costumes and to not bring in weapons (e.g. swords, guns, hooks) that day as accessories. We also discourage full face masks.
- Safety drills have taken place. Expectations were explained to the students, and they have walked through the different procedures (e.g. Code Red, Fire Drill).
- The Remembrance Day Assembly will take place on November 10. Community welcomes to join us at 10:50 a.m.
- Report cards for term one are in progress and are due to the office by November 13. They will be coming out in late November (Nov 27).
- Dr. Phillips announced that she will be retiring in December. She feels very fortunate to have worked at Maple Grove with such a tremendous community. In turn, our PAC co-chairs acknowledged her dedication and tireless effort in making Maple Grove such a tremendous school these past five years.
- Mrs. Weatherall helped to organize a field trip to a Robert Munsch play at Granville Island for five classes – thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Three skating classes for each class will be taking place in February.
- The Vancouver Aquarium’s Aquavan program will be coming in January.
- For the recent Professional Day, the staff went to UBC’s Botanical Gardens where they worked on team building exercises and brainstormed ideas and ways to support the school goal of oral language development.
- Mrs. Weatherall accompanied 20 grade seven students to the “Me to We” day to listen to many guest speakers, including the Dalai Lama and Craig Kielburger, a Canadian activist who founded the organization, Free the Children, which hopes to inspire children to get informed and involved with important global issues. Some students were also able to meet him in person at the follow up meeting. It was a very motivating experience for the students, and a Social Justice Club at Maple Grove is in the works.

4. Executive Reports

Treasurers’ Report - Joel Korn reported that gaming funds have been cut in half. The funds are currently in a HSBC account, but they will be moved to VanCity account in November. Joel also reported that 94 yay and 0 nay votes were received from parents to approve the budget for the 2009-2010 school year. A MOTION was made by Joel Korn to accept the budget as presented; SECONDED by Tim Luu. Motion passed.

5. Committee Reports

Class Parents – Winnie To

- Divisions 4 and 5 are the only two classes without a class parent representative.
- Through class parents, it is hoped that the dissemination of information from the PAC will reach a wider audience and communications between PAC and all parents will be conducted in a clear and effective manner.

Fundraising – Ivy Leung

- The shopping card program is off to a tremendous start with approximately \$10,000 in sales from the month of September (raising \$323 for PAC in return). Ivy would like to thank all parents for their commitment and support of this program.
- Sophia Hague has resigned from being one of the co-chairs for fundraising. Mary Ann read message from Sophia “I will not be able to carry out my role as Fundraising Co-Chair for this year, but hope to do so for next year. Thank you all for your support”. Sophia Hague. If any parent is interested in this position, please contact any member of the PAC executive.

Lunch Time Activities – Yvette Hoptioncann

- Several staff members were acknowledged for volunteering their time to run lunch time programs for our students: Mrs. Humenieuk runs the math club and coaches in the gym; Mrs. Plavan runs the computer lab; Mr. Malin will be offering a chess club and cartooning in January and February; Ms. Hayes-Brown runs an arts and crafts club.
- Dunbar Community Centre will be offering programs to our students in the beginning of 2010 (e.g. multisports, making books). Registration information will be coming out soon.

6. New Business

- Tim Luu reminded parents to please check the website www.maplegroveschool.ca for the latest PAC information. An eNewsletter is also being sent out to all parents on the group email list. To get on this list, please contact your class parent for further information.

7. Guest Speaker

- Elizabeth Lumley (“How to Build Self-Esteem in our Children from the Foundation of Attachment) spoke for the rest of the night.

8. Adjournment

- Next PAC Meeting will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009.



Thank you for attending. It makes a difference to have everyone here, as your presence makes possible for us to function as a strong group of committed parents who are out to create an environment that nurtures and supports our children’s success, and our families’ success.

“Being part of a team has a positive multiplier effect on everyone’s skills, as a result of synergy. Being part of a team makes everyone involved more effective, and helps them to achieve far greater and more lasting results than any individual acting alone. Dreamers are also team builders, because without the support of many talented people performing their roles, little can be accomplished in turning grand visions into reality.” Pat Williams