

Annual General Meeting of the Wolseley school Parent Council

October 14th, 2009

Welcome back everyone, and thanks for coming.

I would like to start by saying thank you to the many people who volunteered their time and energy last year. The events that were both volunteer organized and staffed as Parent Council initiatives include parent council, summer picnic, Winter Festive event, Staff appreciation lunch, pizza lunches, classroom lists, classroom reps, parent education evenings, committee work and general help around school activities such as Camp Cedarwood or Voyageur Days at Wolseley School.

For parent council, there are some changes as a result of some individuals stepping down. Helen served as secretary for last years parent council and did an admirable and timely job and Katrina is stepping down as treasurer after her three year term. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication-you both made it look so easy, but everyone here knows it wasn't!

Lisa is remaining as vice chair of parent council and thank you very much Lisa for your time and effort.

Thank you to all the room reps for helping out in school and helping teachers with organizing volunteers for your classrooms. I know it is appreciated.

In September/October, we organized classroom lists, and got them distributed to students.

Over the year, Deb K (along with her team of volunteers) organized eight pizza lunches as a general school fundraiser and as a grade six farewell fundraiser.

Thank you Deb! We raised money during pizza lunches.

In December, our main initiative was to get the Winter Festive Event going. It was organized by a host of people, including (and in no particular order), Corinne- the Candy Cane Cafe, Barb Z- the General Store, Michelle and Danean- baskets and raffle, Mrs Finch and Greg Guenther- games and outdoor fun, Stacey K and crew-

Fire dancing, Deb D-V - decorations and everyone who volunteered their time at a station for some time or just attended and had some fun with their families. Lora S also coordinated a wonderful and beautiful craft area where people could make their own cards with home made paper, and in the process raised money for the MMC. Lora your continued efforts to educate the children of Wolseley School in international issues, such as reforestation are appreciated by parent council and other members of our school community.

This event raised \$1630.00 towards the purchase of digital cameras for each classroom. I know they are appreciated and considerable time was spent working on the purchase to ensure our money went towards worthwhile expenditures that would be lasting tools for the school.

Starting in January, we hosted two parent education evenings. The first evening was entitled "how to talk to your children, so your children will talk to you" about changing bodies, by Linda P from Sexuality Education Resource Center. The second was "how to promote a healthy body image for your child" with a guest speaker from Women's Health Clinic. Both evenings were well attended and engendered much conversation around the schoolyard over the proceeding weeks after each event. We would like to do two more parent education evenings this year. If you have any ideas for topics, please let me know.

Beth U has quietly continued her proposal writing and grant applications towards grant money for playground accessibility projects and she continues to work with Heather Stanus and occasionally other members as well. Thank you Beth!

Festival du Voyageur Days at Woleley School was well attended by staff, students and many parent volunteers.

Greg Guenther also helped out with Run Club in preparation for the Fit/Fun Run held in June, and continues this year to work with Ms Finch on Run Club. Thank you Greg for your commitment to promoting physical health and fitness in our children. Great job!

The parent council book exchange is still going well and is well utilized, and the message board as well is quite popular for community events posters.

Other parent council initiatives include the staff appreciation lunch, which by all accounts was a huge success, with delicious food had by all, and thanks go to Alison for organizing that event.

Camp Cedarwood had many parent volunteers, both for meetings in preparation and planning for the three day event, and also attending and sharing their special skills.

Grade six farewell is another parent council sponsored event. This event was organized by Rhonda H and Liz R, both of whom put in a lot of work to make this special event happen for the grade six farewell party. The kids went to Grand Prix Amusements and had a pizza lunch. Apparently it was very fun and memorable. The grade six class also donated two trees to Wolseley School and they are planted outside now. Thank you to Lora for watering and caring for the plants all summer-or organizing volunteers. The plants and parent council thank you for your support of the school and its garden.

Our composting program is a big success-so much so that our bins are full. Thank you Heather Status for the donation of a new bin! Good work and thank you to the YMCA lunch program staff who take the offerings to the compost pile each day.

The last event every year is the June picnic, which is a much heralded event that families look forward to attending. Last years picnic was a success as always, thanks to event organizers, Shannon and Shannon.

Many thanks go also to the heads of the picnic events, such as the BBQ - Corinne and Alison, Bouncy Castle and Candy Floss - Audra, Bake Sale - Deb K and Beth U, baskets - Lisa S, activities - Greg G and Ms Finch, and Christine Martin - the Baggy Bar. Many students also volunteered their time to help out which I think was very useful and educational for the children. The June picnic, which is not a fundraising event, but which nevertheless has raised money for the past couple of years, raised which at this point is going to the schools general fund, and over time may be used for adaptability equipment or towards making our playground accessible for all children at Wolseley School.

Finally, this year, we have our new Bike rack. This is a joint Wolseley School and Parent Council initiative, paid for by both equally and I hope everyone here would agree that the new bike rack set up is much better and provides a more comfortable place for locking our bikes up. Thank you Heather for organizing the purchase and delivery of the bike rack.

As for Alison and myself, our plan is to continue for this year as parent council co - chairs along with the returning executive, Lisa S and new members- Liza H and Shannon Z who will share secretary responsibilities and new member Terri H as treasurer.

Thank you all very much for a productive and educational year. Let's continue our work at Wolseley School as an inclusive school that welcomes all into our school community. If you have ideas about any initiatives you would like to see happen, please don't hesitate to contact myself, Alison or anyone on parent council.

On behalf of Parent Council, thank you for attending and continuing support to Wolseley School and Parent Council. Have a great year!

Thank you

Co-Chairs, Audra T, and Alison E,