

**PARENT COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 2015**

1. Opening Prayer – led by Cara
2. Approve Minutes from last meeting (election)
 - Approved: Tonya
 - Seconded: Cara
3. Linda new chair from DCPIC is here.
 - Dec. 3rd at St. Monica in Pickering DCPIC is organizing an Advent Craft Night
4. Carol Stott presentation for new outdoor classrooms Lorraine Clark (Supervisor of Facility Services).
 - Board is interested in tracking what an outdoor classroom looks like from start to finish. It will be filmed for board promotional video.
 - Carol has been a key voice for many schools in acquiring funding and has seen numerous outdoor classrooms built and completed under her guidance. She is an advisor for us, although the responsibility lies with us.
 - We looked at Evergreen Landscape and Child Development book. They are at the forefront of working with school boards on outdoor classrooms.
 - Design principles came out of ELCD. They worked with TDSB for 15 years and a lot of boards are taking their cues from Evergreen
 - Suggested Resource: Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
 - Garden could support multiple areas of curriculum. In fact, there are already curriculum lessons written
 - Considerations:
 - supervision – sight lines
 - materials used
 - installation
 - Barriers:
 - Salt throw patterns
 - Snow piles
 - Catch basins
 - Future infrastructure
 - Costs
 - Would ask students and teachers for information on play patterns, sun, wind direction, etc. in order to find a good location
 - Students can create signs/art in garden. Garden could be based on different themes (for example a bird theme could create bird houses)
 - Funders like to see multiple applications for funding because it shows your commitment to the project
 - Important for kids to take ownership – reduces vandalism
 - Future sustainability – mulch has to be added every 4/5 years

- Labour must be completed by board approved contractors although we may get donations of materials
- Time Frame: will take approximately one year to complete. Funding money must be used up within the year, TD Friends of the Environment grant is open now for applications and they close in February. Mrs. Bartlett has links for various templates.
- Next step is to form a subcommittee with parents, students, eco-team and administration where Carol and Lorraine will help divide up jobs.
- St. Christopher students came up with Peace Place as the name

5. Fundraising

- Made just over \$13 000 on the chocolate bar fundraiser
- Money will go toward outdoor toys, FDK area, class sets of technology. Would like to get at least 6 more iPads. Also need to replace some computers, purchase Chromebooks which are word processors with a bit of Internet connectivity, and teaching students about Office 365 for students to work at school and at home.

6. Principal's Report

- 8 new classroom teachers, a new Program Support teacher and Mrs. Dowling new VP as well as Mrs. Bartlett, new Principal. There has been a lot of learning getting to know the routines and traditions at St. Christopher.
- Chocolate Fundraiser was a huge success
- Looking at putting in play based programs with older students leading younger students
- School Improvement Plan
 - Teaching/Learning
 - Academic focus is math
 - I'm learning to solve math problems
 - Working toward a growth mindset
 - Catholic Community, Culture and Caring
 - Feeling connected and safe with each other, the school community and the parish
 - This will lead to a better performance in academics
 - Pathways
 - Learning about strengths and interests
 - using ePortfolio
- EQAO has not been released for this school year, but have not been released because of the unrest in the labour board.
- Tomorrow a district support team is coming in to the board and they will look at what we are doing at St. Chris and how to continue to improve student success
- Math Hub is a group of three schools (St. Christopher, St. Joe's Uxbridge and Immaculate Conception) that work together to focus on strengths and areas for improvement

- Have had a few assemblies over the past few months. Assemblies are run by the staff and build a sense of community and connectivity.
- Student of the month assemblies will continue throughout the year.
- French Immersion continues to be a strong program in our community
- JK registration is January 11th
- CWL has expressed interest in coming to read with struggling readers and to start a rosary club
- Kiss n' Ride loop has been a huge success in the morning. There are a group of grade 5 students who are interested in becoming monitors
- Safe Schools is important and parents have been supportive
- Pizza lunches have been successful. We have firm deadlines and they need to be respected because it is a tedious process to count the money. Pizza orders have increased.
- Milk form is online which has been very clear and made it fast and efficient
- Family Advent night – will begin at 6:00 PM so that choir can sing a few songs at the end of mass and Parent Council can run crafts in the evening
- Mathletes evening program will not happen due to lack of interest
- Need to create a subcommittee for Advent mass crafts
- Need to create a subcommittee for Christmas angels

7. Next Meeting Time: January 18th at 7:00PM

8. Closing Prayer