

Catholic School Council Meeting
Monday October 16, 2017

Present: Cara Welsh, Marcia DeSouza, Kellee Gaines, Sher Poh, Tonia Luke, Krista Wallis, Erin Weir, Maureen Prendergast, Chris Arnott, Pina Lack, Yella Risorto, Geraldine Borg and Carolyn Bartlett

Public Health Nurse, Chris Arnott:

- Chris supports augmentation to school programs such as mental health for children, student resiliency
- Resources on line for teachers in the classroom
- Parent resources to support the school program and anything to do with parent engagement and bringing parents into the school to have a positive impact on student outcomes
- The public health nurse support school initiatives in resiliency and student wellness
- Support strategies that help students identify stress and strategies to manage stress
- Chris was a big part of our Family Wellness Night, and Kindergarten welcome night

2016 – 2017 Fundraising

Marcia DeSouza proposed the purchase of hardware called Osmo – she will present at the next meeting

Pina Lack brought forth the idea to purchase musical instruments with fundraising funds

Proposal for a 'Speak Up' Grant – student driven grant through the Ministry of Education

Mrs. Bartlett shared that in this year of Service we encourage these charitable works. Last years charities:

- School's Major Charity is Sharelife
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Food Drive – St. Vincent DePaul Society
- Royal Canadian Legion
- World Diabetes
- Beatrice Watson Acheson Foundation
- Christmas Families – Stars and Angels
- Good Shepherd Ministries
- Youth Centre – The Refuge
- Durham Down's Syndrome Foundation
- Earth Hour
- Autism Awareness
- Heart and Stroke – Jump Rope

- Durham Catholic Children's Foundation

Mrs. Bartlett shared that ShareLife and DCCF have virtually no administration fee. Jump rope and Cops for Cancer can have large administration costs and we need to consider that

Questions about Healthy Snack program – funding from the Ministry of Education

Cara shared that cheese and crackers, vegetables and yogurt has been tried and there has been a lot of waste – up to 80%

St. Christopher does fruit on Mondays in bins delivered to classrooms – Mrs. Prendergast concurred that this is well used by students and very little waste

Mrs. Bartlett shared the logo winner inspired by a drawing by Elliott DeSouza

Jim Long our provider - \$10 Gilden Tshirt and \$25 Hoodie

Parents asked about a 'Dry Fit' Type of shirt

Cara Welsh presented on Christmas Concert on the night of December 5 at St. Mary Parish Hall and December 15 is the Kindergarten Concert during the day

Attendance Concerns – Our school has above average chronic absenteeism. Teachers are supporting good attendance practices

Principals Report:

Renewed Math Strategy

- Numeracy Facilitator – Mr. Richard will continue in his role at St. Christopher – work with teachers in multiple ways to assess student learning such as observation and conversation not just product
- The temperature question
- PRO Grant – Casino Night april.19
- How else can we increase parent engagement in Numeracy? Ideas?
- Math questions (Knowledge & Understanding vs. Application & Thinking questions)
- Job-embedded days update – focus on transition from primary to junior – it's still our area of greatest need as per EQAO data – targeting of students, data driven
- October - Aboriginal Awareness Month
- Daily Prayers and morning announcements
- Resources for teachers – Introduction to and overview of a variety of topics that include discussion prompts, faith connections and suggested activities
- Parish Connections
- Rosary Apostolate – first visit was a success, will be continuing throughout the school year until May
- First Communion enrollment – Sunday November 5th 11 am mass
- Confirmation enrollment - Sunday November at 11 am mass

- Confirmation retreat confirmed – April 20th
- Online ordering
- Healthy Hunger update – Ms. Borg
- Cash online coming soon
- New Info to share
- grant to improve kindergarten yard – Mrs. Bartlett presented that St. Christopher has been selected by the Board for Kindergarten yard improvements
- plans for the library/Learning Commons
- School Activities
- Spirit Wear update
- Popcorn days restarted
- Author Alex Romanov visit
- Grade 4's went to the Groundwater Festival at Camp Samac
- Orchard trips – Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2
- Bus evacuation and safety training coming up in November
- Large team sent to Cross-Country Champions meet
- Student of the Month Assembly – celebrating “I am a Believer”, next month “I have a Voice”
- Attendance awards
- Follow school Twitter account for up to the minute updates on school activities:
- @St_Chris_dcdb
- Upcoming Dates
- Check School Calendar online for more dates
- Key Dates: October 20 – PA Day
- October 26 – Immunizations Grade 7 & Gr 8's who missed any
- October 25 - Last day for the chocolate campaign
- October 27th - Fundraising Prize Assembly
- November 2 – Dwyer Future Saints Day for Gr 8's
- November 6 – reports go home
- November 9 – parent/teacher interviews – Sale of Spirit Wear

Next Meeting Date – November 20