

St. Gregory Catholic School Advisory Council – Wednesday January 23, 2013

Attendees: Daniela Balsamo, Domenic Ruso, Adam Grnak, Gabrielle Benedek, Arlene Martin, Luana Fanelli, Karen Loughlin-Plut, Anne Mishko, Angie Severino, Tanya Giaquinto, Lori Tenuta, Vince Arone, Nadine Lustrì, Melanie Fernandez-Alvarez, Maria Skinner, Jennifer Pyz, Nancy Donnaperina, Suzanne Tiefenbeck and Vito Vaccarelli.

7:10pm – Adam Grnak: Welcome and asking for additions to the agenda. Nothing at this time.

Opening Prayer – Gabrielle Benedek

- 1) A primary student has just undergone surgery (successfully) and we are asked to keep her and her family in our prayers.

School Photography Presentation

- 2) Bill Tierney of Bill Tierney Studios presents CSAC with an explanation of his business and services. They were the studio used for this year's school pictures.
- 3) Many families at St Gregs used the on-line ordering this year. There are many products available such as calendars, mugs, CDs, personalized storybook, etc.
- 4) Parents advised that the quality of the pictures was improved from previous years. Customer service was also fast and efficient.
- 5) Next meeting Bright Pics will be visiting CSAC to present as well.

Health and Safety – Tanya Giaquinto

- 6) Fun Food Fridays have been scheduled for every Friday in February. This year's theme will be 'Low Sodium'. Every class will have two sessions, and allergies have been taken into consideration.
- 7) It will end with the Big Crunch at the end of February.
- 8) Four students from the Health Action Team and Mr. Cooper went to a presentation about games for the schoolyard. They will be sharing them with fellow students during recess.
- 9) The next meeting for H&S will take place on Feb 28 from 12pm -1pm. They will look into conference calling to allow for parents who cannot attend in person.
- 10) The anaphylaxis and anti-bullying handbooks will be available very soon.
- 11) There have been many communications about the special presentation on Jan 31st. Other CSACs have been notified and Adam will advise the public schools in the area.

Chair's Report – Adam Grnak

- 12) The minutes from the last meeting were approved via email and posted on the website.
- 13) We are presenting the Jan31st speakers with honorariums of \$150.00 each.
- 14) There will be sitters available as this is a presentation designed for parents.
- 15) Some funds that CSAC has recently received: \$76.00 from QSP, \$535.62 from the ProGrant, and just under \$700.00 from Kidsentials.
- 16) Next subcommittee meeting date is Feb 6 2013. BRICKS and Curriculum will be meeting starting at 6pm.
- 17) Next CSAC meeting is Feb 20, 2013.
- 18) It was suggested that the Student Council be advised that CSAC may be willing to assist in any activities they are involved in.
- 19) The Swim Meet has not been discussed since our presentation at the beginning of the year. No one has expressed interest in being the Meet manager as of yet. It was also mentioned that the closing of the Olympium in preparation for the PanAm games makes it an even more difficult endeavor.
- 20) A concern was raised about how the snowplow is piling the snow on the walkway along the fence in the horseshoe. This forces the pedestrians into the parking lot to get to the schoolyard.

Principal's Report – Gabrielle Benedek

- 21) The school is very excited about new math and language initiatives that see students visiting Michael Power St. Joseph to be presented with those student's individual projects. There are also lessons taught to our grade 8s by the MPSJ math teachers to help them prepare for what they will see in high school.
- 22) The Ministry has not confirmed anything about JK yet. There are 3 classes of 30 children confirmed and the wait list has three priorities:
 - 1) in catchment area
 - 2) outside catchment with sibling in school
 - 3) outside catchment.
- 23) The people who paid for the cancelled ski date will be reimbursed. They are looking into a new date, but the prices will change.
- 24) There is no set temperature for indoor recess. Temps around -10 to -15 degrees as well as wind chill factor are considered. The green space is open during outdoor recess now that the ground is fully frozen.

Treasurer's Report – Domenic Ruso

- 25) CSAC is looking to spend all the funds in the account and leave around \$500.00 for next year.
- 26) The Scientist in the School numbers are low – the office will check that there are no outstanding invoices.
- 27) Health and Safety will be using their funds soon for Fun Food Fridays.
- 28) IT renewal has been given \$7500.00, the other \$10k is contingent on the Run-A-Thon earnings.
- 29) The tax receipts for the Marathon Fund Raiser are still outstanding. The Board is requesting information. Adam and Gaby will sit down next week to pull all the necessary info together.

Parental Involvement Sub-Committee – Anne Mishko

- 30) The Family Fun Skate is scheduled for Sat Feb 23, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:15pm at the Mastercard Centre (rink 1). It is noted that there is a conflict with the swim team try-outs, but attempts to reschedule were unsuccessful.
- 31) There will be a \$2 admission with free coffee, hot chocolate and cookies.
- 32) Tanya is looking into setting up a system with neighbourhood sporting goods stores to allow CSAC to pay for rental of equipment for students who do not have the necessary things to join in the skate.

Teacher Luncheon Sub-Committee – Karen Loughlin Plut

- 33) The date has been set for March 20, 2013. Staff has requested souvlaki. All staff is welcome, and invitations will be extended to others in the school-based community.
- 34) Karen will look into requesting baked goods from the parent community for dessert.

Curriculum, Programs and Presentations Sub-Committee – Luana Fanelli

- 35) They are considering ways to bring the virtues of the month to life in the school (i.e. linking the “Year of Faith” with prayer). They welcome all ideas and will be meeting on Feb 6, 2013 in the music room.

Choir update – Vince Arone

- 36) There are 15 active members in the 6/7/8 group (5 boys). They have decided on their songs and have signed an attendance agreement.
- 37) Weekly rehearsals for the primary choir are being considered and Mrs. Benedek will look into finding a volunteer teacher to supervise. Ms Kriscunis advises she is no longer able to run the junior choir.

Pastoral Council – Vince Arone

- 38) This is the “Year of Faith” and prayer cards are now available (one per teacher and class will be provided). All day confessions Wed March 6th. Fr. John is working with Mrs. Benedek on a plan for school involvement.
- 39) Pastoral Plan Headed by Cardinal Collins: looks at present status of the Archdiocese.
- 40) The church website is now up and running after being hacked last year.
- 41) Father John is still considering the repairs and changes to the church parking lot. He welcomes constructive suggestions.
- 42) CSAC’s coffee Sunday is booked for Sunday March 3, 2013.

Adjourned 9:00pm