

RCES Council Meeting  
Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Meeting called to order by Cynthia Menary at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve agenda by Cynthia with minor change – presentation by AY Jackson students before Principals Report. 1<sup>st</sup> by Susan Wehrmann., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Miskelly. All in favour.

**1) AY Jackson presentation – Special Initiative Kenya Run**

The AY Jackson HUG club is organizing the 2010 Kenya Run, which is a 5 or 10 KM walk or run being held on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will pay tuition for girls in the Lwak Girl's School in Kenya. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fun run on the TransCanada Trail. Last year there was 150 participants who raised over \$6000 to help the girls in Kenya go to school. It costs \$750 per year for each girl to attend school. The group has gone from supporting 7 girls to 73. This area is heavily effected by Aids, malaria and poverty.

Kenya's High Commissioner H.E. Simon Nabukwesi opened the run in 2009 and is hoping to participate this year. Students are hoping to get more publicity through celebrities, radio stations (89.9) and TV. You can register by getting a form from AY Jackson or online at the Running Room website at this link: <http://www.events.runningroom.com/site/?raceId=5450>.

**2) Principal's Report - Mr. McLellan**

#1- Thank you to School Council for sponsoring our African Drum and Dance presentation...It was amazing! I had a great visit last week to A. Y. Jackson H.S. what an exciting school!

#2- I met with Colleen Taylor from the Western Ontario Community Resource Centre...this was a follow up to the presentation they made to School Council in December...concerning the Best Start initiatives...Lisa and I will be attending a meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> with other schools and service providers

#3-Term 2 Report cards will go home on April 9

**Student- Led Conferences**

This April, your child will hold a “Student-Led Conference”. Parents can expect to receive an invitation from their child scheduling the time and date to share and discuss his/her work. **Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>** will be the day the the conferences will be held. This is a goal setting activity for your child.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you, as a parent, to show a positive interest in your child’s progress, accept your child’s reflections on his/her work and goals, and provide your child with support and encouragement for his/her school work.

#4- Our current numbers ...694

- Kindergarten registration has started **we currently have 75 new students...JK**
- **6 new SK and 5 new grade 1 and 1 grade 2 student...and growing**
- **Our projected enrollment is 303 students in the regular program and 450 in the EFI program....a projected total of 753**
- We will be using all 12 portables as classrooms.

#5 – Roch is trying to reduce the use of paper. We have challenged the staff to have 1 day photocopy free. We are thinking of only posting the newsletter on the school website. School council will do the same. Only a smaller notice indicating that the newsletter is available will be sent home. Coming in September a new recycling program – we will recycle tins, milk cartons and paper.

March 15-March 19	March Break
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Report cards go home
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Student Portfolio Day

### **3) Staff Report – Carolyn Hammond**

Focus: Social Studies

#### **Mrs. Bannerman**

Our J.K. class will be learning that signs tell us what things are, where things are and how to do things. We will be going on a sign walk (with our toilet paper roll binoculars) around the school to look for signs such as EXIT.

The JK's with Miss Kathy and Miss Jo-Anne have enjoyed celebrating the Olympics. We had daily outdoor Olympic Games, made Olympic medals and finished last Friday with cookies and hot chocolate! We are very excited that Canada won the most Gold medals!

#### **Mrs. Kerwin's senior kindergarten**

After writing and reading Olympic Books about the various winter sports, we have made gold Olympic medals and learned to spell Olympics. Our very own Calleigh Simeone's uncle, Steve Omischl was in the Olympics (aerial ski jumping), so his sister came in to speak about Uncle Steve and gave the children pins from North Bay where Uncle Steve was born and raised.

#### **Mme Hole, Mme Pearson**

In Social Studies, we are learning about caring for animals. The children are enjoying looking after pets in the "boutique d'animaux".

**Mrs. Wood's** Grade Ones have finished a unit on The Local Community. They cooperatively created a large map of their community which is hanging in the hallway outside their classroom

**Mr. Ridgeway's** grade one class is continuing with their "Consideration Days". On these days, the students go out of their way to be considerate of others.

#### **Mme Meh**

We are studying maps in Grade 1 EFI Social Studies. We are learning the importance of a legend and how to read and create one with symbols that correspond with our map.

**Gr. 2EFI-** We wrapped up our Social Studies Unit on Traditions & Celebrations by doing a Family Tree (l'arbre généalogique) and sharing 5 important events in their lives.

**Mrs. Paunins'** grade 2/3 class has been celebrating the Olympics and learning about the traditions that are related to such an event. We are also learning about the different sports, venues and athletes. In addition, we have been doing graphing activities using the data collected throughout the Olympics. Drop by and look at the media wall on our class door....lots of neat things are displayed.

Students in **Sue Levy-Rick's** grade 3 class are completing mini-research projects on the Early Settlers of Upper Canada. They are building a website to publish their projects!

The students in **Miss Berry's** class will be starting a Social Studies unit on Medieval Times (Gr.4) and Early

Settlement in Upper Canada (Gr.3). We're going to be taking a look at how today's society might still be benefiting from the knowledge and traditions of early settlers and how major events influenced medieval society. We will also be comparing the roles and responsibilities of the men and women of those times with today's.

Students in **Mme Macdonald's** grade 3 class are currently learning about rural and urban communities. We are going to be writing tourist brochures and attempting to persuade people, through our commercials, to come and visit various Ontario communities.

The students of **Madame Poirier's** Grade 3 EFI class enjoyed participating in the Pioneers Unit during our Social Studies Unit. We integrated many subject areas into the study of Les Pionniers et Les autochtones.

**Mrs. Westwood's** grade 4's are learning to be Medieval Researchers and are grooming to be classroom Knights for a tournament.

The Grade 5's are becoming Egyptologists. They are mummifying a grapefruit and are about to construct a miniature Upper and Lower Egypt that will be flooded weekly so they can watch the grass grow!

**M Prudhomme's** grade 4 immersion students are getting ready for their overnight museum field trip. In class, the students have built a replica of medieval castles. They will develop a personal coat of arms as the jousting Knights wore and will cook a few traditional Medieval dishes (Potato and leek soup)

**Mrs. Allingham** and **Mrs. Doucette's** grade 5 students have just begun studying Ancient Greece. We are looking forward to having our own Agora (market) here at RCES. In Grade 6, **Mrs. Allingham** is integrating Language Arts and Social Studies in a unit on the relationship between early European explorers and First Nations people.

In **Mme Laviolette's** classes, the grade 5 students are studying Ancient Civilizations - they have begun with Ancient Egypt which they are all loving. Mme. Laviolette spent a year in Egypt and is enjoying sharing her stories and pictures with the students in her class. The grade 6 students are studying Early Explorers. They are busy researching an explorer and will write and present a eulogy on their explorer along with a picture of their explorer, a map of their expeditions, and 5-10 important facts to add to our time line.

The grade 6's in **Mrs. Gasperetti's** are studying Canadian explorers and are learning to look at historical texts critically. They will be researching an explorer and writing a series of diary or journal entries from their point of view.

And finally, a note from **Mrs. Riem**

The Grade 5's students in Mrs. Carew's class designed and painted an IKEA chair for the "Pull Up A Chair" for breakfast program. The chair is on display at IKEA and bids for the chair are being accepted. Our chair is called "We Are One" and is based on the character trait "acceptance" from the OCDSB Character Wheel. The premise is that together, we can accomplish anything.

#### **4) School Suppliers – Chantal and Kristin**

The last 2 years we used Write On School Supplies but there is also Best Tools for Schools and School Ready who are both local companies. The supplies cost a bit more because they have fundraising options and they also don't let us to remove as many items from the basic. We may be able to eliminate the fundraising, Chantal or Kristin will check into that. Some parents concerned about students actually getting their supplies but Kristin and Susan assured them they were delivered to classes before school. Another parent was concerned because they got another list from their child's teacher at the beginning of school. Unfortunately not all teachers do things the same way. There will always be the potential for an extra list, whether or not we do this program. Chantal and Kristin will research the other 2 local companies and get back to us with the one with the best prices.

## 5) Record Keeping

Anne would like to know who puts the minutes and agendas on website. Chairs to contact Anne.

## 6) Spring Dance

Date tentatively set for June 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. Will be similar to the Family Fun Night grade 6's held two years ago. Want to get the community involved – Kanata Soccer, Cheerleaders, Martial Arts, BCA, Fire Fighters. See if Starbucks will come, Works to possibly bring a milk shake truck, Gabriels, Wild Wings. Hope to get a dunk tank, tug of war, egg and spoon, face painting. The last hour will have music, lights. Would like to do a bake sale or cake walk type of event, silent auction, popcorn, candy floss.

Will use the \$500 from the government and ask for the \$500 the BCA gave to council. At this time there will be no fee but need to check into cost of tank and bouncy castle.

Volunteers are needed – will send out and email/letter looking for volunteers. Mr. McLellan to check into volunteers from AY Jackson, Mrs. Hammond to help

## 7) Treasurer's Report

No report.

## 8) Food

The last cake walk raised \$1008. We had 56 items.

## 9) Fundraising

Entertainment Books – we could do this again or we could do a smaller coupon book for \$25 which are only valid from September to June. Cynthia would prefer not to do the smaller book because they require "prizes" to the children whereas we can opt out of prizes with the regular books.. It was agreed to not do them.

Motion: Do we want to continue with entertainment books for next year? 5 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Will put reminder in newsletter before March Break to remind parents to use their Entertainment books.

Magazines – do not want to use QSP because of past problems we have had. Kathy to try and get name of another magazine company from a friend.

Zumba raised \$250 for vermicomposting.

## 10) Open Table

a) Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> has been set for Staff Appreciation Lunch. This is National Teacher's Day.

b) Pace car – Constable Devine advised pace car launch. Caroline has asked Tom from City of Ottawa to set up speed signs again.

c) 2 kindergarten parents mentioned they appreciate school council fundraisers to reduce the cost of field trips.

d) Movie night next week. New notice will come out with a different movie as the other one not suitable for all students. [www.mediasense.org](http://www.mediasense.org) is a good website to check out the ratings from movies.

e) Wallace Beaton – Greening Communities of Canada. He will be coming to next meeting to talk about new initiative to get kids to school. Needs volunteer parents to sit on committee. There will be a survey going out. A \$2000 grant will be given to school - can be used to improve school, possibly get more bike racks to encourage kids to ride to school.

f) The lost and found is overflowing. Please come and check it out. Clothes will be bagged and gone by March Break.

Motion put forward to adjourn meeting at 8:40 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> by Cindy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy. All in favour. Meeting was adjourned.