

General Vanier School PAC meeting minutes September 30, 2015: 7 PM

In attendance: Sloan Funk, LeeAnn Mytz, Bob Cowie, Alana Grenier, Shannon peever, Tom Peever, Joanne Riley, Jen Lane, Michele Bishop, Chris Garroni, Michelle Hodnett, Colleen Seel, Wendy Novomy, Lorna Mann, Shawna Anderson, Andrea Patterson

Administration Report:

Staffing Update: 46 staff members; 20 teaching staff; 26 Support staff (EA's office staff, custodians)

- Tina Arnott grade 1-2 (replacing Colleen Hill for 3-6 months) Christina Manchulenko Behavior specialist,, Elizabeth Wright SLP, Charlene Sacher grade 1-2, Candice Sundell grade 5-6, Alexandra Di Curzio grade 7-8, Jack Fraser SLP, Katie McArthur-Grant grade 3-4
- New EA's - Natasha Fleury, Tara Martin, Odeda McNiel, Pam Tollenaar, Glenn Ward, Timo Harju
- New Administration secretary - Trish Sharp

School numbers. Total student count 217 biggest classes being grade 7-8; 25 new students plus 16 K

1. Start Up

-Opening day conferences went well – good turnout

-Welcome assembly chance for kids to say hello and welcome to new comers. Great to see all the kids together young and old

-Terry Fox Relay – September 25th- went well great event were students from other schools run from their school to a neighbouring school to pass on the torch.

-Sports- cross country has started up for grades 4-8 just a couple more meets to go. Great turn out (20 students, lots of 4th graders)

Volleyball – 2 teams grade 7/8 (1 girl & 1 boy team 16 girls 9 boys)

2. School Plan:

Mr. Cowie is hoping to have a school bulletin emailed out every couple or so weeks with pertinent information for upcoming weeks. First bulletin was sent out last week. Hoping this is a nice way to send information and less hassle. Other ways for information is the General Vanier website , reader board, tweeter, tv monitors and phoning the school.

3. Homework website:

Administration shared a great website to help students study and other tips for parents to help support their children. It also talks about the curriculum Website is mychild@school for all grades now including grade 6-8.

4. Lunch/canteen information

Heating lunches: Mrs. .Mytz brought up sending out a potential survey for parents whether the microwaves were necessary, it is not a problem to have them but it does cause line ups and kids don't have as much time to eat. PAC thoughts were mostly that we like having the microwave as an option for our kids. So we are not sending out survey. But we will remind parents to try to send things that need a minute or less. Canteen has opened Monday October 5. Same menu as last year order forms are available on line or through the office.

5. Upcoming Events and activities

Choral Celebration October 15

Class Profile Meetings October 8-9

Thanks giving, Monday October 12, no school

Friday October 23 No school provincial SAGE (teacher development day) Sunday

November 1 daylight savings time (turn back 1 hour)

Monday Nov 30 student led conferences

Wednesday Dec 16 k-4 winter concert

Friday C 18th last day before winter break

Tell them from me survey will happen soon for our grade 4-8 students. The survey is used for feedback for in service days and how we are doing.

Halloween at General Vanier School do not dress up at school but do still do Halloween activities in the classroom. To replace dressing in a costume the school does some sort of special thing. Last year was p.j day and donate a pj for kids in need. This year they are talking of having a sock up and donating socks. The donations go to the Nova House woman's shelter.

Remembrance Day: Mr. Cowie had heard of another school in Brandon who did a project called No stone left alone; they went to a graveyard and layed a poppy on every solders grave site. This encouraged Mr. Cowie and Radio host Kelly Parker from Fab 94 fm, to do the same with GV students. They are planning to bring the whole school to Elmwood Cemetery for the Remembrance day ceremonies, then place poppies on soldier graves. Mrs. Mytz mentioned that the students really do a very good job going out as a whole school, they really enjoy seeing the older kids partnering up with younger kids and working as a whole to keep everyone safe and respectful.

6. Citizen projects

Every year the school works on citizenship goals. Their have been Many wonderful ideas some still in the possible stages others are projects that are set and ready to happen throughout the year, every month.

September

- Terry Fox
- Welcome Back Assembly October
- Sock-Hop or PJ Party (students collect clothing item for donation to families in need) Grade 5/6, Grade 3/4 & Kindergarten
- Coats for Kids (students donate used winter clothing for families in need, requires contact with United Way) Grade 1/2 & Grade 7/8

November

- Remembrance Day Assembly
- Postcards for Peace (students write letters to serving soldiers and they are delivered through Veterans Affairs Canada)

December

- Christmas Hampers (students collect food items, clothing and toys for a family in need, requires contact with the Winnipeg Cheer Board)

January

- Used Toy Drive (students collect used toys for donation to shelters for the less fortunate)
- Snow Angels this was something that was meant to be started last year but didn't get much snow. The idea is to shovel houses in the neighbourhood. If you know of someone in the neighbourhood that would appreciate the service let the school know.

February

- Pink Shirt Day Bullying Awareness (students spread awareness on anti-bullying, requires organizing a whole school campaign or assembly) Grade 3/4 & Grade 7/8 will probably do like last year and purchase a pink tshirt for the whole school that the students will be able to decorate themselves.
- Project Love (students organize packages of school supplies to be sent to developing countries, requires contact with Project Love)
- 100 Day Activities (students organize a celebration within our school for completing 100 days of school)
- Festival du Voyageur

March

- Operation Donation (students collect food items for needy families in Winnipeg, information provided by LRSD, requires contact with Winnipeg Harvest) Grade 5/6 & 1/2
- Spirit Week still thinking of ideas hoping to get student ideas

April

- Vow of Silence (students do not speak for 1 hour on the chosen school day to understand how it feels for children throughout the world that do not have the right to speak, assorted age appropriate activities available through Free the Children, requires school campaign or assembly)

May

- Grades 7-8 will do summer camp
- Seniors Day
- Volunteer Appreciation

June

- School Wide Event (for example: Amazing Race, Scavenger Hunt, Gym Blast, outdoor ed. activity)

7. Budget requests:

No requests at the moment. Hoping to get about 5 iPads for the school that they may ask support from PAC but at the moment they are still looking in to a grant or other means before asking PAC.

8. Questions to administrators:

In our last PAC meeting (at the end of the school year), a couple of representatives from LRSD joined our meeting and mentioned that they might be able to cover the cost of the Movie permit for our movie nights. Administration will look in to that for this year. If the division does not cover the cost of the permit the administration has agreed to pay half the cost and PAC will pay the other half of the cost of the permit.

PAC president report

1. Elections - Elections for positions is done in June. All positions are filled.

2. Our PAC meetings - Usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Tentative dates for PAC for the year is as follows:

Oct 20

Nov 17

No meetings in December

Jan 19th

No meeting in February

March 15th

May 17th

No meeting in April

Meeting reminders can be found on the reader board outside the school, tweeter, website, bulletin email, tv monitor, and you can always call the school.

3. Pizza Lunch - We will continue with pizza lunch this year. It will continue to be on early dismissal days. Letters should be sent out by next week. They will take place from Oct-May and PAC will provide a hotdog lunch in June.

4. Fundraisers - We will continue with the fundraiserless fundraiser of \$40 per family. This is what has been done for several years and every year we send the request with a survey as to if parents like this or would prefer a traditional fundraiser and we receive 98% of responses coming back that this is preferred. Letter should be sent by early October. The money that we do make usually go towards our grade 8 farewell, recess equipment, phys Ed equipment, and wish list items request from the school. Last year we put \$250 dollars towards phys-ed uniforms.

5. Movie Nights - Movie night will continue this year on Nov13, Jan 15th and another one some time in March. Movie night is a community event PAC puts on for the kindergarten to grade 6 and their families. Kids must be with parents older sibling is not good enough. There is a canteen with small treats for sale and there is no admission cost.

6. Block parents - The block parent society does still exist and they are always looking for people to be block parents. They are also looking for a representative from our school.

7. Community Connections - There is an invite to our PAC committee to attend the community connections the invite went out to PAC elect members first and if they don't fill the 5 seats then the invite will go out to the rest of PAC members.

8. New Business - Question was asked as to the reasoning for no Dodge ball this year, could we do it with parental permission forms? It was answered with a firm No Dodge ball. It is not a healthy sport, it involves purposely hitting others, and always ends up with student issues. There are plenty of other wonderful activities being offered. Chris will take care of the building permits for the winter concert and contact Trisha.

9. Round Table - suggestions for Sub Committees:

A. Gardening committee: Shannon and Tom agreed to head this committee and come back with more info next meeting. Invite anyone within our schools committee to help beautify the grounds.

B. GVPAC website:

Allowing us to post anything to do with what we are up too and so forth. This idea was put on hold for the time being.

C. Playground subcommittee : Shannon and Tom have also agreed to head this committee. We will look into grant requests, city, lrsd board. The idea is to bring in playground equipment that is accessible and inclusionary. Fundraising will most likely need to happen for this but will discuss further at the next meeting.