



Parent to Parent

News from the Captain Cook
Parent Advisory Council
September/ October 2015

Welcome to all new parents and welcome back to all returning parents to a new and exciting school year!

Parent-to-Parent is the newsletter of the Captain Cook Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents informed of PAC activities. It will be sent home with your child at the beginning of every second month.

Captain Cook Parent Advisory Council

As a parent or guardian of a Cook student, you are automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). **The first meeting of the year took place on Monday, September 14th at 7:00pm in the school library.** All parents have a vote at the PAC meetings and are openly invited to attend and ask questions or voice concerns they might have with regards to school business. An elected executive runs the business of the PAC. Our AGM will take place at our October meeting. In the coming weeks we will be taking nominations for executive positions on the PAC for both new and existing members. Meetings are held once a month (the second Monday of every month with a few exceptions) at 7pm in the library. Child minding will be available in the activity room during these meetings.

We urgently need more parents to join the PAC Executive as we will have 3 members who have a collective experience of 26 years experience leaving either during this year or in June. We need to pass our knowledge and experience on to new parents during the various campaigns and events as we go through the year. The fundraising we do supports the school by helping purchase items otherwise out of reach as well as providing things like performances, subsidizing field trips etc for all students. These will no longer happen if there is no-one to take over the PAC. Food days, movie nights, sports day lunch are a few more things that will be cancelled as well.

Please consider taking on a role with the PAC to help carry on supporting the school. It doesn't have to be time consuming but it is essential as what we provide definitely enhances the school experience for all the students.

Parent Bulletin Board

The parent bulletin board is located at the entrance of the primary hallway. This is just to your left as you enter the school's main entrance. On the bulletin board will be the PAC meeting agendas and minutes, District Parent Advisory Council minutes and announcements, the PAC calendar of events for the year and other important information for parents.

Fall Photos

Lifetouch Canada will be photographing the students again this year in mid October. Watch for notices which will be sent home closer to the date with more information.

Fundraising

The PAC organizes and runs most of the fundraisers throughout the year. These funds go towards enhancing the school environment. The money goes towards extra things to enrich the school.

Ongoing endeavours that the PAC regularly contributes to are:

- Field trips (usually about \$9/student)
- Cultural and fine art programs, performances and instruction
- Sports Day.
- Library books.
- Classroom literature (through the Scholastic book fairs)
- Chinese New Year Lion Dance

The PAC funds have also been used for major purchases that have enriched our school significantly. The decision to support these purchases is made as the need arises and voted on at PAC meetings.

Some of the things that the PAC has funded are:

- Mobile wireless computer lab with 28 laptop computers.
- Instrument Maintenance
- Team Jerseys
- Two new playgrounds
- mobile iPad mini lab
- Upgrade to whiteboards in classrooms

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There will be three main fundraisers this year:

1. QSP Magazine Subscription (September): This is the tenth year of this fundraiser. Parents are reminded to not renew their subscriptions for their magazines so they can be renewed through the school to raise money. (Watch for this campaign to start on Tuesday, September 29th.) Our frozen cookie dough fundraiser will run in conjunction with this campaign.
2. Direct Donation Campaign (November): Many parents have asked if they could simply donate some money for a tax receipt. This is the only fundraiser which guarantees that 100% of the money donated will go towards the school community. This is VOLUNTARY and families may donate funds this way only if they choose to do so. More information will be coming at the end of September. Tax receipts are issued from the VSB for donations of \$20 or more.
3. QSP Chocolate Almond Campaign (April/May): This is our biggest campaign of the year and is still increasing in popularity. Last year the students raised over \$7,000, which will go towards upgrading the hands on technology which the students utilize daily within the classrooms.

* we are still planning on having 2 book fairs this year as well as providing the opportunity for our families to order beautiful poinsettias for gifts or decoration in early November.

Scholastic Book Fairs

The book fairs are held for one week in the months of October and February. These fairs are extremely popular with families, students and teachers. Watch for more information to come home in early October. Volunteers are always needed for this fun and fast-paced event!

Family Movie Nights

The PAC is hoping to be able to host 4 movie nights this year. Students and families bring blankets and pillows to watch a popular movie on a Friday night with their friends. A small snack bar is set up where refreshments can be purchased for a small charge. Entry is by donation.

Volunteers

Every organization is only as good as their volunteers, and ours are the best! If you have some free time and would like to be a part of a great team of closely-knit parents, please take some time to fill in the volunteer form which was sent home with this notice and return it to your child's teacher before September 20th. Volunteering is a great way to get to know more about your child's school and to show by example how satisfying it is to help out within the school community.

PAC Calendar of Events

A calendar of PAC-run school events will be posted on the parent bulletin board in the near future for your reference. These are proposed dates for campaigns and events for the school year.

If you have any questions about anything that pertains to PAC or school business, or would like to learn more about what roles need filled within the Executive, please email the Captain Cook Parent Advisory Council at www.captaincookpac@live.com. Somebody will get back to you a.s.a.p. And if we are unable to assist you, we'll pass your query on to the appropriate person.

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