

Parent Council Meeting – February 21, 2019

Updates:

We have a lot of upcoming events:

- Pancake Tuesday – March 5 – AM – parents volunteer to bake/warm up. We have 684 students and teachers. Runs from bell and to before lunch. We need volunteers! Staff room and servery. Students will deliver.
- Spring Fair – June 6 – Thursday before PA day. This is the earliest we can do it as the school is booked up until then. We would like to start thinking about what you'd like to see. Games, crafts, face-painting, raffle baskets are a big hit. It brings in a lot of money for us. It will be indoor and outdoor, dependent on the weather. We will not be doing a vendor market as it didn't do very well. More to be discussed at our April meeting. It will be held in the evening. We could use our Healthy Hunger vendors to serve food. We would pay for whatever we sell. It will allow parents to see what our kids eat. It's a huge variety for people to choose from. We will get the ice cream truck again. It was a big hit and they donated cash back to our school.
- Mary Poppins – The evenings of April 17 and 18 for families to come in to watch. They are looking for furniture, a park bench is still required. They are also looking for people to donate items for the raffle baskets. If any parents can source anything from anyone they know, it would be greatly appreciated. This is very different from the Spring Fair donation.
- Distinguished Volunteer Award – from the Durham Catholic Involvement Committee, as well as the school board. This year, we nominated Sharmila Sharma. She has always offered her time to us. She will be presented with the award on April 23.
- Math Night and Book Fair – a lot of parents and kids came out. There was good feedback. There were a lot of student and teacher volunteers. We estimated about 140-150 kids. It was very well run. The scavenger hunt was very successful. It was an adventure for them. Shut the Box was a hit was well. It went for any age. If you have any ideas for next year's fair, please let Jovie and Colleen know. Mrs. Roberts was very happy with the book fair.
- BOGO Book Fair in May. We will look into working with Chapters. They can offer book fair fundraisers for families of SJB. The best time to do something with them would be before Easter. They give back 20% in Chapters/Indigo gift cards or 10% in cash. We could then use the proceeds for our school. Maybe we can ask the singers in the play to perform at the library. It promotes the play. Mignonne will look at the first week of April for availability.
- Recipes in a Jar – various recipes in a jar – for every jar that's sold, a meal is given to a local shelter. Last year they sold for \$12. You have the option of getting it delivered to your house for \$15, or we can get it delivered to us at the school, and we distribute it. We receive 40% back.

Asante Presentation – mental health, mental wellness presentation. We had other schools attend as well. For grades 6-8. These presentations often bring up feelings that they don't usually recognize until it's brought up. Kid's help phone was discussed as well. It was very well received.

Spyder Presentation – Spyder Jones presentation is tomorrow at 1 pm. He's very popular. He was the first black broadcaster in Canada. He has interviewed Mohamad Ali, Desmond Tutu, etc. He turned his life around by getting into boxing after having a sorted past. He talks positively, moving forward and not looking back. Looking to succeed, working as a community, despite colour of skin, obstacles, etc.

Anti-bullying Week – starts next week. Everyday there is a school activity. Teachers will discuss within their classes as well. Our student in Grade 5, won the award for designing the Anti-bullying t-shirt.

Outdoor Classroom – Our school is looking to create an outdoor classroom at the front of the school. We'd like to put in trees for shades and seating for kids and teachers and perhaps add armour stone all along the front. We would plant low-maintenance plants (hostas). Does anyone have connections in the community that does landscaping? If we can get a donation, it doesn't have to go through the board, but if we have to pay for it, then we'd have to get board approval.

Healthy Hunger – has been going really well. Subway, Firehouse Subs, Extreme Pita. Kids love the food. Brings in money for SJB. Boston Pizza and Wok Box are the biggest sellers. There are also more options that we can offer but we don't have the volunteers to run the program. Some parents have been upset about kids not getting their lunches because they're on school trips or sometimes other kids have eaten other's lunches. We need to let the parents know that the school keeps the lunches that were not picked up for the next day. Mignonne will add it to the website. We should add lunches to the school calendars because some parents forget that they've been ordered. Parents should also be aware that if a child happens to forget their lunch on a day, the office will always be able to provide them with a slice of pizza that they have in their freezer. Children will never go hungry.

Holy Communion Reconciliation this Saturday at St. Francis.

Kiss and Ride – parents have expressed concerned about Kiss & Ride – it's every school. We have teachers that are on duty as well. We have parents who are walking children to the gate rather than unbuckling them and getting back into their cars and move along. The side entrance is only for buses, it should not be used for cars. If anyone has any suggestions that might help with the situation, they would be greatly appreciated. We could really use more volunteers if anyone is available.

Other:

Beverly - Hosting Game of Thrones fundraiser – at Ajax Convention Centre – proceeds to go towards orphanages in India. An email will be sent to the parents asking if they would like to attend/participate.