

The Woodlands School Council Meeting

Location: The Woodlands School
Date: February 23, 2009
Time: 7:30-10:30pm

Attendees:

Staff/School Representatives:

Ray Kaake	Janko Marjanovic	Jeanne Gray
Hugh Miller		

Parent Representatives:

Mark Langley	Dawn Kearns	Sangeeta Chopra-Charron
Sundanda Narayanan	Ravi Narayanan	Dinah Langley
Cindy Li		

1. Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted.

3. Principal's Report:



KUDOS TO:

1. **Award of Distinction:** Congratulations go to the following individuals who have been awarded the **Award of Distinction** by the Peel District School Board: **Joan Climie, Warren Courtney, Sharon Henry, Deb Hindmarch** and our very own PC Lan **Shahin Vali**.

Award of Excellence: Congratulations go to **Jan Farrow** on being awarded the Peel Board **Award of Excellence**. More information to follow on how we will celebrate the accomplishments of these individuals at an upcoming staff gathering.

2. **Music Department Highlights:** The music program had an exceedingly successful week last week in the Musicfest Regional competitions: Congratulations go to **Susan Barber-Kahro, Sean Mootrey, Kelly Devinish, and Janko Marjanovic** and their music students for the excellent results. Highlights included:

Jason Lee, one of our grade 9 music students won a Gold and Best of Class with a mark of 94 in the Open Piano Romantic Composer Class. He would have been competing mostly with university students, some of whom would be music majors!

During the past week, over 170 music students represented The Woodlands at the MusicFest Regional competitions.

Hours of intensive rehearsal and commitment have paid huge dividends for the members of **Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands, Wind Ensemble, Intermediate and Senior Jazz Bands and Chamber Strings**. These groups picked up **5 gold standings and a silver standing** as well as 5 invitations to perform at the **Music Fest Canada's National Festival** to be held in May. The adjudicators also made several comments about the exceptional work of the percussion section of the Senior Concert Band and Wind Ensemble as well as applauding the efforts of the terrific work of Tappy He on cello and Megan Kuhrt on harp. We are fortunate to be able to celebrate such an outstanding level of musicianship and teamwork here at The Woodlands School.

3. Patricia Hopwood Jones, Eddie Wong, Liz McBryan, and Mike Kake who took 97 students to the provincial DECA championships and qualified a total of 31 students to go to the International Championships in Anaheim, California. There were 157 schools in attendance at the championships and the Woodlands School qualified a total of 10% of the contingent that will represent the Canadian contingent in California.

4. Rav Panwar and the **members of the SAC** for hosting a highly successful semi-formal last Friday night. Special thanks go to all of the teachers who assisted as chaperones for the evening. **Art Tinson, Daphne Perugini, Ben Bombier, Anneli Andre-Barrett, Kelly Grandy, Pauline Shou, Carol Suhay and Peter Hill**.

5. Special kudos to the team of Drama Angels who have come to the rescue to help support the Sears Festival Drama Nights most recently held at Cawthra Park and again this week at The Woodlands. **Anneli Andre-Barrett, Ayana Toney West, Stephanie Alexander and Monika Quinn** have all provided much needed assistance in the absence of **Deb Hindmarch**. Thanks Team !!

6. Canio Monetta and Donna Young for the excellent wrestling season that they have underway. Best wishes as they accompany our ROPSSAA Gold Medal winner **Shekhar Saxena** to the OFSAA championships in early March.

7. Elona Hartjes, Catherine Haire, Judy Grimwood and Jeanne Gray for recently being recognized at the WOW celebrations for 20 years of service to the Peel District School Board. Student Trustee Shambhavi Shankar delivered a thank you speech on behalf of all of the students in Peel. (see below)

8. Lana Hischak, Jasmina Jurcic, Radmila Jannic Bandic, Catherine Haire and Lily Ye for their highly informative presentation at the recent ESL Parents' Information evening.

9. Zain Ghadially and the members of the Woodlands Table Tennis Team for their silver medal finish at the ROPSSAA Table Tennis Team Championships. At the ROPSSAA Table Tennis Singles Championships, Ding Juan, Stee Lu and Joseph Zhong all came away with gold medals.

Other News

- a) Grade 9-12 Parents' Night (26th), Secondary Early Reports and Elementary Term 2 Reports (March 6), Elementary Reports (Term 2 Elementary Parent Interviews March 12 and 13)
- b) Immunization Deadline - March 4 (7 elementary, 62 secondary)
- c) Literacy Committee Report - Need Help March 10 at Chapters (north side of Sq. 1)
- d) School Calendar for Next Year
- e) Early Release (March 5) - focus on Anti Bullying Initiatives and Assessment for Learning
- f) Sears Festival - March 27 in our own Cafeteria - Asclepius by Sam Forrest (last week it was a play written and directed by Cameron McDowell)
- g) April 2 - OSSLT Written Test
- h) April 3 - Battle of the Bands
- i) April 9 - Mid Term Reports
- j) International Bazaar - April 27

Future Reports

- a) Your Voice Counts Survey Results

Update on The Woodlands Plant - Mr Kaake

Not much movement has taken place. Update for next meeting.

Prefects Organization - Hugh Miller

The purpose of this organization is to:

- Raise money for charity
- Take the lead in school leadership & administration of school events ie commencement
- Promotion of various events within the school ie Stephen Lewis

Students go through a rigorous application process. All grade levels as well as academic and enhanced students are represented.

There is some confusion as to which events are "social" vs actual prefect's responsibilities. Also, it appears that there is a need for clear communication upcoming prefect events are so that we may more effectively sponsor them. Some concerns were shared about appropriate prefect behaviour at events ie parent's night. Jeanne and Hugh to look into and update council.

Other Business:

No Left Turn on Erindale Road

Traffic council to meet with the school on Feb 25th. The re-fit of the school may take this issue into account as part of its overall "Great Places to Learn" initiative.

Funding Inequities- Mark Langley

Sangeeta and Mark to draft a letter to address the funding inequities.

Student Success Presentation - Ray Kaake

An excellent presentation was made to council on how "the system" is improving to ensure success of its students. Last year, there were 330 lost credits and this year we're down to 190. Note that the majority of those lost credits are owned by a fairly small student population.

Mr Hill and staff will have a plan in place for the next school year and an update will be provided in May.

Results from Parent, Student, Teacher Survey - Ray Kaake

This item was deferred until the next council meeting due to a lack of adequate time.

Gift Cards for Speakers - Sangeeta Chopra-Charron

Council agreed that each presenter (past and future) would be issued a gift certificate for \$100 as a thank you. This represents an \$800 expenditure.

Soliciting Feedback from Parents - Cindy Li

Cindy recommended that we could set up a blog as a method of soliciting feedback. Mark indicated that the software has this functionality. The feature can be enabled but it would be imperative that all messages be reviewed prior to posting.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

Important Dates

Council Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2008/2009. All meetings start at 7:30pm.

April 6, 2009

May 25, 2009

Upcoming Speaker Series

April 23 - How to support your Student in the Canadian Education System