

**John English SAC Meeting
Wednesday November 18, 2009**

MINUTES

Announcements – Jim Sanderson

- The annual Mimico tree lighting will be on December 6 from 4:30-6 at new parkette. There will be live entertainment and refreshments.

Principal/Vice Principal's Report

JE Olympics

- Grades 1-8 will participate – multi-grade groups will be assigned to a particular country.
- Students will have activities to learn about their assigned countries (for example, making a meal.
- Then team countries will compete in a number of events.
- The kick off assembly will be on November 30 in the morning.

Citizenship

- On Feb 10, the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire will sponsor a citizenship ceremony. Ms. Hayward will be organizing this event and the grade 5s will be participating as part of their module on government.

Leadership Camp

- This Saturday from 9-2, there will be a leadership camp. Admin staff and teachers will be working with students (from student parliament, JEL, healthy living, future aces) to develop leadership skills and plan for the year.

Assemblies

- On the first Wednesday of the month, the school holds a student recognition assembly. 2 students from each class are recognized after a recommendation from the teacher. Classes can also perform a play/song if they wish to participate. This is a very positive event.
- On the third Wednesday of the month, there is a character education assembly. Today the theme was empathy. Teachers can also acknowledge children who demonstrate the character traits.
- Administration also uses the assemblies to discuss hot topics like cellphones, lunchroom routines, lates, kindergarten hallway and skateboarding.

School Repairs

- Work is being done in the schoolyard. Tree roots are going into drains and backing up the toilets. Work is being done on the weekends in order to turn off the water without disrupting the students.

The French Information night for extended French will be next Tues at 7pm.

Schools in the Middle – This is a new program JE is involved in. It will be discussed next meeting.

Aspirations Program

- 20 students, 8 mentors
- Kickoff Nov 30 - then students will meet with mentors weekly.
- Jan is looking for mentors. If anyone has a recommendation, please let her know.

Holiday Concert will be on December 9 - children don't know yet if they will be participating.

The JE auditorium has been permitted out for a performance of the Nutcracker but JE students will not be attending.

The Kindergarten sing-a-long will be on December 17.

Teacher's Report

- Performances
 - Mike Ford will be performing for Grades 4-8.
 - Duffel bag theatre – Three Musketeers – for both French immersion and Core French (2 performances)
- Hockey (Jr and Sr, boys and girls) will be starting soon
- Musical auditions underway for Schoolhouse Rock – Grades 4-8
- Albion Hills coming up
- The laminator and spiral binding machine (\$300+) are broken. The teachers are looking for fundraising dollars from SAC to replace these. Since they get used a lot, it would be worth getting good quality machines.
- Teachers are keeping a list of ongoing school activities that parents may not be aware of.

Board Business

Guest Speaker – Tanzila Mian, Projects & Chapter Development Officer, CPF Ontario

- Mission – to support French second language opportunities for students across the country inside and outside of the classroom.
- The program was started by English-speaking mothers in Montreal and has been a model for other countries.
- There are 60 members in the Toronto West Chapter and Jodie Brown is the current President.
- JE has become an associate member organization (AMO) membership
 - Ms. Mian presented Ms. Dick with several French games as part of the membership.
 - The school has access to French multimedia kits (for multiple grades) that can be borrowed by teachers for 6 weeks for free.
 - JE has done well with French public speaking provincial competition. Posters have been provided to encourage students to participate and Saturday May 6 is the final competition.
 - If the children continue to complete at the high school level, there is the opportunity to win prizes, including significant scholarships.
- The CPF is piloting a 10 week after school French club for students in grades 2-4 beginning in January. There will be a maximum 30 children – more information will be available in January.
- French classes for adults will also be starting in the new year.
- For parents of children in grade 7/8, there is an annual weekend French winter camp. Registrations are being taken now for the camp Feb 26-28 in Bradford.
- Jodie can tell people about other opportunities or people can visit the website at www.cpfont.on.ca. The French resources section can also identify book fairs, French tutors, movies and camps.
- Richview is our local French high school, but there are other French high schools as well – see the Toronto District School Board website for more information.

Board Reports

Special Events - Family Movie Night

- 135 tickets sold so far, but there will likely be more.
- There are 6 volunteers from the JEL team.
- Volunteers still needed – beginning at 4 but also afterwards for cleanup.

Communications

- The communications team includes Kathy (newsletter), Mary (website), Terry (coffee and chat), Jeannette (bulletin board) and Michaela (e-news).
- Materials to be distributed (about fundraisers, special events) should go to Wendy or Jan for review by the administration before they are distributed.
- It usually only takes 2 days to have a communication approved.

Mary Bella - website

- The goal is to create an inventory of all the information on the website so it is updated and relevant.
- Newsletters and all other notices have been posted and the calendar with events is an excellent new feature.
- If anyone is looking to volunteer to check links on the website, this is a job that can be done from home.
- SAC thanked Mary for her hard work on the website.

Sandy Gene noted that in US, teachers use the website to post assignments on the websites – would JE teachers be interested in doing the same?

- Tried to do this a few years ago, but it was frustrating for the teachers because of the process for getting things posted. However, teachers would be interested.

Treasurer's Report - \$17,000 raised so far

Health & Safety

- Craig has been dealing with the police to deal with traffic concerns.
- Suggestion for the JK/SK was to use high school students to manage the traffic or allow parents to drop students off.
- Used to have Grade 8 students manage the younger children whose parents are doing the PSP program.
- This item will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Programs

- Campbell's Soup label – double point opportunity to work towards musical instruments. The deadline is November 27.

Fundraising

- Proposed 2009 – 2010 plan for discussion
 - QSP raised \$6,775 (2009 / 2010) – the dance-a-thon \$4, 777 (2008/09)
 - This year, the fundraising team is considering a rock concert with a band called See Spot Run (<https://www.seespotrun.ca/>) that would include children.
 - This is one of many options – the final decision has not been made.
 - The past 2 years, the funds have gone to Healthy Bites (the dishwasher has been purchased and will be here next week).
 - This year, the team would like to support technology and sports and will need input from the teachers re ideas.
 - Money from last year was also used to purchase volleyball net and equipment in conjunction with Parks and Rec.

- Last year, \$4,000 was allotted for excursions, but school only used \$594. This year, there will be an allotment per class. Teachers would like to know how much is available in order to plan.
- QSP – can continue to order throughout the year and proceeds still come to the school.
- Chapters fundraiser – November 26 – 6-9pm. There are a couple of local authors who will be signing books and there will be a door prize. The organizers are looking for 2 other volunteers.

Other Business

Ongoing Teacher Appreciation

- We would like to show the teachers that we appreciate what they do. Sometimes parents are not aware of all the things that teachers do to make the school what it is. There was agreement that there will be a submission to the newsletter every month about particular teacher contributions.

Volunteer requests – The following teachers are looking for volunteers:

- Ms. Laruccia – Eco club
 - Composting bins in multiple classrooms – she is looking for help building some outdoor bins. Suggestion to link with the woodworking course at the Mimico Adult Centre.
- Sally Salama – Library (book shelving)

Blue bins in lunchroom

- These have been delivered but some of the younger children are putting food in the blue bins so some learning still needs to happen.

Ward meeting (Monday) with Chris Spence – Director of Education (TDSB)

- lots of dynamic, forward-thinking ideas including considering a boys-only school, focus on technology, caring and safe schools and making schools a part of the community.

Campaign for Public Education – TDSB Board School Closure process

- Last year, SAC considered supporting People for Education. This might be an item for discussion at a future meeting i.e. whether this council wishes to endorse groups like this.

Meeting End - 8:25