

John English SAC Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:00 pm

MINUTES

Principal/Vice Principal's Report (Craig Howe)

- Mr. Howe advised that there were some changes after school began to the organization of some classes.
 - The grade 4/5 split was moved to a 5/6 split class. The grade 4 is now a full (non-split) class
 - 6/7 split class (French immersion) became two full classes.
- Caretakers have made the school look fantastic. One classroom had a floor replaced as well as extensive cleaning and many smaller maintenance updates.
- There are new teachers in the school:
 - Mlle. Xisto – Gr. 7
 - Mme. Tan – SK
 - Mme. Hehn – Gr. 4/5
 - Mr. Panou – Gr. 6/7/8
 - Ms. Simon – CYW
 - Welcome Mr. Gentile, our new vice-principal
- Education Day – OSBA – ESA – September 20, 7 pm with Trustee Gough (candidates to deliver their views on education and talk about key issues with regards to your child's education.)
- Mr. Poyser (gym teacher) has suggested a line of John English branded gym clothing for sale. These would not be mandatory for gym class, but it is meant to be for school spirit/pride. Principal Howe is in agreement this good idea. More information to come.
- New uniforms for the teams are going to be purchased for school team events (such as cross country and soccer, basketball, etc). Our current uniform jerseys are quite old and need updating.
- Mr Howe would like to move to electronic communication for class letters etc. He would like to post the newsletters online and simply send out the notice that they have been posted. Mary Bella (webmaster) was present and has ideas on how to help with this. This is something that will take some time to organize.
- EQAO results came out on September 14. Mr. Howe reminded parents that the exams give a snapshot in time of the learning and may not reflect the success of the students completely.
[School results](#)

Teacher's Report (Ms. Heather Smith)

- Madame Salama has requested organizers for the Book Fair (in November on Parent Teacher night). Volunteers would be required for setting up a schedule and taking ownership of the sale.
- Madame Mazelet is looking for Grade 5 and 6 students to be crossing guards. The training (delivered by the police) is on September 21.
- The International Daughters of the Empire, who have done some ceremonies here at the school in the theme of citizenship, have donated three smart boards to the school (with a grant from ESSO). Smart boards are writing tablets that can be projected onto the wall. Mr. Howe will determine which classrooms they will go to.

- Cross Country is coming up on October 3rd and Madame Lauziere is one of the coaches. Please encourage your children to try out for the team.
- Curriculum Night is Thursday, September 22
- In closing, Madame talked about an article she read which stated that stressed the importance in asking your child “how was your day?” She felt this was a great message and reminder and thought she would pass it along.

Board Business

- Maureen Boon, SAC president let the group know that an organizational chart of the SAC would be distributed by email and anyone interested in taking on a role on the committee could contact her directly. There are many available positions and everyone’s input is encouraged.

Treasurer’s Report (Kim)

- Kim Peters, our treasurer reported that we began the school year with a bank balance of \$5000
- Regarding spending, there were a few items that she listed in a short – list: Ukulele program was given a 3 year approval while items deferred included: technology, sports equipment and bike racks
- Fundraising: the budget for 2011/12 has been prepared and will be presented to the group next meeting. One larger item is the QSP: the magazine fundraiser where we last year we raised \$6600. This initiative is now underway. Assembly will be on September 21st, with catalogues coming home thereafter. Kim encourages everyone to order online, thereby reducing the \$1 charge for paper orders. The campaign runs from 21st September to October 4th. Top selling student will win a laptop, other prizes are an iPod touch, iPod Nano, and DSI. There will be draws for \$50 gift card amongst all sellers.

Health & Safety

- No report

Communications

Class Rep Network

- The goal is to have parent representatives in each classroom at John English. The purpose is to connect the news of the school, the classroom and the community to the student’s parents. Currently, the French immersion classes are mostly represented. The network is actively seeking reps for the English classes. Please contact Carolyn McPhee if you are interested: jeaniem@bell.net. Carolyn will collect the forms from parents via the teachers following the curriculum night and distribute them to reps. Carolyn will confirm who the reps are by the end of next week.

Healthy Bites

- Cindy Kelly will be leaving the community and therefore her role as Healthy Bites Coordinator.
- Taking over in the roles of coordinators are Lisa and Jenn with immediate effect. Cindy is in the process of training the new coordinators and that process will take about 3 weeks to complete.
- Monday is bagged lunch, Tuesday – Thursday hot lunch, salad bar.
- Cost: \$44 month three days, \$33 month three days
- Monday – Thursday program 170 kids
- 120 kids in the Monday program

- The program is funded through a grant from The Toronto Foundation for Student Success; registration fees fund the rest of the program
- There is a subsidy program and it is being used.
- The program is always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested, contact Jenn at healthybites@johnenglish.ca. There is a 9 am – 12 pm shift and 11am – 2 pm shift Tuesday to Thursday. Monday is only 9 – 12 shift.
- There is also a committee which helps guide the program, if you would like to join, email the address above.
- The snack program is on hold currently (one day a week, each class gets a bin of fruit). They are hopeful this will start up again soon.

A separate program offers fruit to the kindergarten class. This is organized by Ms. Whale. One parent mentioned that there were food items that were not desirable being served in this program (processed cheese). It was mentioned that while they may not be a choice that some parents would serve, these items are actually allowed in the program. Mrs. Whale works with her budget and has the program nutritionally inspected by Board representatives.

Other Business

- The Ukulele Program starts next Tuesday with the new grade students 3
 - Additionally, 20 Grade 4s are enrolled in the elective lunchtime program
 - Melanie Doane is the instructor for John English School.
 - Teachers from John English have been invited to join the elective class
 - On Friday September 30, Saturday, October 1st there will be a show entitled: An Evening of Aloha with the Makaha Sons from Hawaii with Special Guests - The Children's Ukulele Ensemble directed by Melanie Doane. Net proceeds from both concerts will be donated to our Children's Ukulele Program so that more students can have the opportunity to learn Hawaii's national instrument. The council has been given \$500 by a concert promoter for a show - information on the website. Discounts available for blocks of 10 tickets or more. Email Jane Chapman at uturn@rogers.com.
- Parent Safety Program – Kathleen Eyman runs the program that is the drop off area for kids coming to school in parents cars each morning. Parent volunteers are paired with a JE teacher. They are looking for volunteers. There is a 3:10 pm – 3:25 pm shift and an 8:25 – 8:45 am morning shift.
- Welcome Bake Sale Thursday Night/Curriculum Night
 - 6:30 p.m. classroom start
 - 6:00 p.m. Bake sale on the pavement
 - Peanut free baking please!
- School Grounds Maintenance

A parent raised a concern about broken glass found by the play structure and in the yard. She doesn't feel that the glass is being cleaned up in a timely manner. Mr. Howe spoke to this: he has spoken to the caretaking staff about cleaning up the glass immediately. He also mentions that the glass is part of a community problem. The school yard is used in the evenings as a place for youths to hang out and they often bring glass bottles that are smashed in the school yard. Mr. Howe has put the school on the watch list with 22 Division as well as with the TDSB security team who does checks at night. The number for 22 division is 416 808 2222: call if you see activity on the school property

- An unidentified person has been seen on Mimico Ave. Description has been given to the principal and the teachers have been made aware.
- Mimico Children's Choir – starts Thursday, September 15 for kids for SK to 6
3:30 – 4:45 pm on Thursdays at Mimico Baptist Church (beside the school). Come on out!!

Close Meeting at 8:30 PM

Next Meetings

Thursday October 13

Wednesday November 16

Thursday January 19

Wednesday February 15

Thursday April 19

Wednesday May 16