



ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT NGEPAC October 14, 2014

School Start-Up

A big thank you to parents, students and staff for all their efforts with our late start-up. Despite some challenges this year around start-up, our students have landed so very well in their new classrooms. A few answers to parent questions:

Why aren't the children placed in their new classroom right away?

- In a growing community like North Glenmore, it is always tricky to fully predict our enrollment numbers for the fall. Over the past 7 years, we have typically "grown" a classroom in September. If we placed students in a new class right away, history shows us that we would need to re-place students into different class the following week.

Why do we wait till the 2nd week?

- It takes time to determine final numbers, reorganize class lists, hire if necessary, then set up the new classroom as soon as possible.
- We let parents know that they can count on the "big move" to be on the following Monday, so they are not anxiously checking each day.
- Our experience has been that students transition better in a Monday than a Friday, when they can get back in class the next day, as opposed to waiting over the weekend.

What are the students doing during that transition week?

- Teachers engage students in a variety of curricular review activities, as well as a number of fall assessments to pass along to the next grade teacher to help inform their initial instruction. This year, students also had a chance to complete some "unfinished business" from June.
- We also organize a number of school orientation activities that would take place every fall e.g. Opening Assembly, Effective Behaviour Guidelines, Code of Conduct & Respect Rules. Additionally, due to the timing of school start-up this year, we added our Terry Fox Run and a Music / Dance assembly.

Enrollment

Presently at 477 students in 19 classrooms. We are in compliance with the new Ministry requirements regarding class size and composition, and presently have minimal room for growth (no space in Grade 3, 4 or 5).

Terry Fox Run

This year, we rescheduled our Terry Fox Run to Thursday, Sept. 25th. We had the privilege of hosting ~30 student leaders attending the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Kelowna. These students came from all across Canada and helped us celebrate and conduct our Terry Fox Run. As a school, our generous Gator families quick raised over \$500 in one-day to support this wonderful cancer research foundation. Way to go, Gators!

School Goals 2014/15

From our School Planning Council Report, the school will continue our efforts in working towards 90% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in both Literacy and Numeracy, while increasing our overall levels of achievement. We will also continue with our Parents as Partners initiatives, building on our great success over the past few years with our series of parent workshops. This year we will be hosting our iPLAN (Parents Learning About the Net) series – see school website for full details.

School Planning Council

Requires 3 representatives each year, one who must be part of the PAC executive.

Ministerial Implementation Day

Non-instructional day – Oct 10 – this year our entire teaching staff attended a one-day workshop with Adrienne Gear around Non-Fiction Reading Strategies for the classroom.

Fall Conferences

Thank you for attending our conferences on Oct. 2nd & 3rd! It was a great opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and discuss the school year and learning needs of each child. A reminder that teachers are still available for individual meetings or conference calls if parents feel the need.

Celebration assemblies

Will typically take place the last Friday of each month at 8:45. Gr 1-6 will attend, parents always welcome. Emphasis is on celebrating the many great things happening at NGE. Classes will be encouraged to share their learning in informal presentations. Next assembly = Fri, Oct 31 (Hallowe'en!).

Hallowe'en

Celebration Assembly: 8:45 – several classes performing

Costumes: most students wear to school – simple, no masks or accessories

Activities: individual classes organize

Parent Previews

Teachers are encouraged to send home Term Themes, Topics and Learning Outcomes at the beginning of the term (instead of inserted with report cards at the end of the term) so that parents and students can preview their learning. Helpful to parents who wish to assist, reinforce, or participate in classroom themes.

Parking Lot Update

Our upper and lower parking lot are officially designated as staff only as of today! Over the past few years we've increased in student population and in staff members (on a full day, we have the potential of 52 staff members!), and like the majority of schools in our district, our parking will be reserved for staff. We sent home notification last week to families to highlight all the approved areas around the school for parking (please see the website for the details).

Room Parents

We implemented this system as an effective way for coordinating handouts, class helpers, volunteers etc. It seemed to be a great success! We're hoping to continue with this system this year – PAC coordinator Janine Cornett.

Annual Funds for Playground Equipment

Thank you once again for your continued support of \$750 each fall to enhance playground equipment.

Math Cards → Sumdog subscriptions

Reminder – in lieu of math cards this year, our Gr. 3s will be receiving Sumdog (online math facts program) subscriptions to support their growth in developing their basic math facts. Thank you again to the PAC for your support with the costs of the Gr. 3-6 student subscriptions.

School Support (LIS / CMOS)

Again this year, we have been provided additional staff funds to support teachers using new instructional initiatives based on research and “best practice” (Learning Improvement Support Funds), as well as to support specific student needs in each classroom (Collaborative Models of Support Funds).

Foundations for Success: Primary / Intermediate Student Assemblies

This year, we will continue our theme that aligns with the SD No.23 Attributes of a 21st Century Learner – Learner, Thinker, Innovator, Collaborator, and Contributor. These serve as great learning assemblies (3 assemblies over the school year) for students and wonderful opportunities for primary and intermediate teachers to collaborate and co-plan learning opportunities for students.

North Glenmore PAC Minutes October 14/14

Welcomed by Janine Cornett.

Present: PAC Executive: Jane Hardy, Janine Cornett, Simone Wittenberg, Crystal White, Robynn Robertson, Jody Crumb, Laura Overland, Clara Tonn

Parents: Adam Romano, Jaime Lea, Shelley Foley, Jodi Newton, Rhonda Langford, Teri Loney, Kathryn Rexin, Amanda Martin, Nikki Price, Terry Farquhar, Paulette Deyholos, Mike Deyholos, Fabiou Ci d Youez, Cindy Nielson, Kathryn Chin, Michelle Jewell

Staff: Maeve Buckley, Jordan Kleckner

Introductions

Approval of the last minutes made by Janine Cornett and seconded by Robynn Robertson.

Administrators Report

Have had a great start up. This has been one of the few years that we haven't grown a class. We have 14 out of catchment kindergarten children. We still have one empty classroom. We didn't add, but we still had to reorganize. It's easier on kids to move them on a Mon. then on a Fri. We have 477 students. We have no space in grade 3, 4 or 5.

During Transition week we had an opening assembly, effective behaviour guidelines, code of conduct and respect rules plus we added our Terry Fox run and a Music/Dance assembly.

Our Terry Fox run was rescheduled to Sept. 25 with 30 extra student leaders from the Leadership Conference. We raised \$500 in one day.

School Goals for 2014/15 will be working towards 90% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in Literacy and Numeracy.

We will continue to do parent workshops with our iPLAN(Parents learning about the net) series. See website for details.

We are looking for anyone who wants to be part of the school planning council. Requires 3 representatives, one must be part of the PAC executive.

On implementation day our teaching staff attended a workshop with Adrienne Gear around Non-Fiction reading strategies for the classroom.

Thank you for attending our conferences on Oct. 2 and 3. A reminder that teachers are available anytime if parents feel the need.

Celebration assemblies usually take place the last Fri. Of each month at 8:45. Grade 1-6 attend. All parents are welcome. Classes are encouraged to share their learning. Next assembly Oct 31.

Teachers are encouraged to send home Term Themes, Topics and Learning Outcomes at the beginning of the term so that parents can preview their learning. We find this helpful for those that wish to assist, reinforce, or participate in classroom themes.

Parking Lot

We had to make the upper and lower parking lots staff only this year. We have a total of 52 staff. Maeve Buckley suggests that if you have older kids to let them play until the second bell rings and then come pick them up. Dr Knox students are volunteering with the parking lot drop off. See website for details.

Thank you to the PAC for their annual gift of \$750 for playground equipment.

The PAC is also donating funds so that the grade 3-6 students can participate in an online math program called Sumdog.

Again this year, we have been provided extra staff funds to support teachers using new instructional initiatives based on research and “best practice” as well as to support specific student needs in each classroom. We will continue our learning assemblies for students so that teachers can collaborate and co-plan learning opportunities for students.

Info about the School Planning council

Consists of parents and administrators. We hold a data roundtable where staff, parents and district staff can discuss the data from our school. Look at what’s working and how the students are doing.

We do a data roundtable and do a cross section of our data. Support groups for grade 1/2. It helps us decide how to support our kids, what they are struggling with. Need about 3 parents, one from the exec. Need to decide on financial resources.

Parents as Partners goal

We have updated our communication and been giving parent sessions on a variety of topics. We started a central zone parent network, we invited parents to come to any of the schools for sessions on bully awareness, cyber awareness, and self-esteem. This year we would like to talk about building a positive online presence.

Question about doing more field trips. It would be wonderful to fully fund 2 field trips per grade. We might need to come up with a dollar amount for each grade. We don't want it all to be recreational field trips. The executive will meet and come up with an amount that we feel we can afford to give for field trips. It will be voted on at the next meeting.

Treasure's Report

Aug. 31 is the end of the year.

Family photos and spring fair are our 2 biggest fundraisers. We could cover \$10 per student for field trips without touching the gaming money. We received \$9200 this year for our gaming money. Balance as of Aug. 31 in the general account is \$15700.00. We are talking about supporting the K/1's with our technology goal. They would like to go with the sound field systems so that the students hear the teacher better. The kindergarten classes are piloting them this week. K/1's would like to know if we could give them some money for new home school books as well as wireless listening systems, Would like to know how much money we could give them?

Mr. Owens class has 2 to 1 ratio of iPads like the other grade 6 classes.

Rhonda Langford makes a motion that we spend \$1800 on home reading books seconded by Teri Loney. Approved.

Fundraisers

Looking at doing cookie dough again. We talked about letting parents know that if they don't pick up their cookie dough it will be donated. You can now get them in the grocery store so it isn't as popular.

Domino's Pizza fundraisers, calendar suggestion. We will probably do a Goji's fundraiser, we made about \$200 last time. A suggestion was made that we switch to Peachwave instead.

Special thanks to Simone Wittenberg for taking on the hot lunch program again. We made about \$1800 last year that we could spend on field trips. It makes sense to put that towards field trips. A suggestion was made that it would be nice to do something with the community other than our Salvation Army donation of food and toys at Christmas. Maeve Buckley suggests that we partner with the grade 6's when they get back from "We" day. Harmony day is more about peace, originated in Australia. Really accepting everyone no matter your colour, background. The colours are orange and purple. It would be nice to do something globally and locally.

Yearbooks

PAC had to give \$190 last year because we didn't sell quite enough books. We will do a yearbook again this year for the same price. Hard covers will be an extra \$5 instead \$4 to make up some of the money that PAC gives us. We would like to have a year book signing day since we didn't get the yearbooks before school got out last year and we would like to sell the extras at lunchtime. Big thanks to Teri Loney and her helpers for putting out a fabulous yearbook last year.