

Caldwell Parent Council Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2019

Present:

Ashlee Simpson

Wendy Ferris Groulx

Devinder Pooni-
Gunderson

Carm Ciocio

Melissa Danis

Rachel Dugdale

Lisa Code

Kyle McCulloch

Amanda Kenny

Finances

- We are rich! We have \$9353. No cents.

Boks

- Boks is up and running. It had only run once at the time of this meeting and, despite having a wait list because of high demand, the first session saw about 30 students come out. Ugly winter weather is to blame and the number of attendees is expected to increase in the coming weeks.
- As long as the program runs smoothly, Madame Jill Miller and Madame Freemark will run a spring session outside.

Mabel's Labels

- The Mabel's Labels initiative is also up and running. Hope was expressed at the council meeting that many parents choose to use the labels as the Caldwell lost and found pile continues to grow.
- Sending notices home to kinder parents about the label program was discussed, as was posting on Facebook over the summer time, when parents start to prep for sending their children to school.

Hot Dog Days

- March will be the final hot dog day of the year.
- This lead council to a discussion on whether or not we will do food orders in June. It was determined that we will do pizza days only for the month of June.

Fundraising

- The Dance-a-thon scheduled for Valentine's Day has been cancelled as it coincided with a Grade 6 fundraising initiative previously planned.
- The Dance-a-thon has been rescheduled for March 29.
- Moving it from a holiday (Valentine's Day) also makes the dance-a-thon more inclusive for all students.
- Side note: This lead to a council discussion that made me go home and Google Saint Valentine.

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- Melissa Danis suggested a fundraising idea of selling Papa Jack's popcorn. They are sold in many flavours and come pre-popped. We discussed both the possibility of selling the popcorn to the kids within the school, as well as sending order forms home to families.
- It was noted as a consideration for fundraising initiatives next year.

Kinder/Primary Play Day

- The previously scheduled primary play day was cancelled and rescheduled due to inclement weather.
- The kinder playdate will be on February 6th.
- The council will be buying hot chocolate for the kids.

Book Fair

- Scholastic is offering a prize for a contest this year - \$60 toward scholastic items - the contest must involve math, reading or writing.
- A teacher indicated that competitions are not the best for the students, so instead of making the contest competition-based, it was discussed have the children create a piece of work in order to be entered into the contest.
- Writing pieces/pictures can be displayed in the hallway.
- Alternatively, we could do a "guess how many jelly beans are in the jar" kind of thing with students earning opportunities to submit a guess.
- The book fair will take place the first week of May, although the specific dates are not yet determined.

Pro Grant

- In what might have been a Christmas miracle (or because the provincial government received backlash for funding cuts) we were approved for the grant.
- I completely take back my "bah humbug" from last the meeting minutes.
- However, what we had initially intended to do with the pro grant money - host an information night on how to use our new online system to pay - is not applicable for us now, as we, ahem, don't have an online pay system.
- So despite the Christmas miracle of receiving the pro grant money, we will need to return it as we cannot use it for the intended content.
- This led to a council discussion on next year's application. Some ideas that were discussed included a wellness night that involved yoga and martial arts (more of a movement-based idea and less of a learn-how-to-beat-someone up idea). We will discuss the application for next year further at future meetings.

Hand Knitting

- Carm Cicio taught some students over recess one day how to do hand knitting. It has apparently taken off and is all the rage at Caldwell at the moment.
- It was discussed doing a Facebook post requesting any leftover yarn that families might have around the house.

Safe Schools Committee

- Examples of student surveys were examined at a staff meeting in January that dealt with student wellness and safe schools.
- Caldwell will look to conduct two small surveys of 10 questions.

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- The first survey will be conducted by the end of February and will focus on students' self-regulation strategies, such as zones of regulation, Kelso's Choice, etc.
- The survey will look to gauge if the students are learning and implementing from the regulation strategies they have been taught.
- The second survey will look to gauge if students feel safe. If not, it will try to determine where they don't feel safe. It will look to identify if students feel like they have a go-to person to talk to when someone or something is bothering them. It will look to gauge if a child has seen someone being bullied or has been bullied.
- The surveys, which are in the early stages of being drafted by Devinder Pooni-Gunderson, will be completed by grades 3-6 or 4-6 only.
- The survey results will help Caldwell administration to create benchmark data that will help guide the programs that we use in the school.
- Repeat surveys (of the first survey) might be conducted in June to identify any changes.

Excursions

- Trips to both the Mill of Kintail and Baxter Conservation area are upcoming for several classes.

Next meeting is: February 19, 2019