

School Council meeting – Thursday September 30, 2021 @ 6:30pm

Admin Updates:

We have been approved for another EA – more info to come soon.

Students setting in to being back at school. So nice to see them – we've missed them so much.

Have noticed with the transition back to in class learning, some little ones are having issues sitting in chairs and staying focused.

Hopeful resolution for smooth transition: providing kids with calming items, bean bag chairs etc. This will come in time.

New staff members – Kristen Walker, Core French and 4/5 Language and Math, Maggie McGlade grade ½ (covering until Samantha McNeil returns in April, Jessica McTavish 2/3 in am, Graeme McTavish grade 5/6.

Significant concerns in student reading levels. Baseline testing administered in all grades. All staff have receiving training in supporting students with phonological awareness and preparing purposeful literacy centers. Special Education small groups started; decodable text have been purchased. Teachers will be given planning time next week to dig deeper into the data and set goals for the next month.

levels for reading are either sticking to where they were last year or dropping (some are almost 2 1/2 levels behind)

Staff received support from boards Speech Language Pathologist to discuss administering Heggerty program (phonological awareness)

Noticing that students need lots of support with number fluency. Staff will be provided with time to plan purposeful math centers and learn about number talks as well as time to look at the Lawson resource.

Monarch Butterflies:

- Last 4 monarchs just hatched
- This year all students were able to enjoy as they were placed in the lobby
- Next = DUCKS - provided by a grade 6 students
 - Incubator with eggs will be set up in the lobby so the students can watch them hatch

Old Grad photos:

- Photos have been moved closer to the gym doors by the school's front entrance and replaced with student artwork.
- Hoping this helps the students feel more connected with the school community by showcasing their amazing pieces of art for all to enjoy!

Assemblies:

- Assemblies not possible right now due to Covid restrictions.
- Currently replaced with each classroom being designated a day where they assemble in the gym to discuss current events, how they are feeling etc.
- Have recently been talking about stress and what they/we can all do to help elevate and resolve this.
- Also, a nice opportunity for the students to talk and listen to one another respectfully.

Facebook:

- Recent issues with password etc made posting not possible, however, this has now been resolved and posts will start happening shortly/more frequently.

Music:

- Mr. McTavish has busted out the ukuleles - kids are LOVING them from what we can tell.

Fundraisers:

- Terry fox raised \$178 for the Terry Fox Run.
- Pizza Thursdays
 - Student will purchase slices the day of for \$2.00.
 - Hopefully this will make it easier for families and the school, as refunds due to school closures/sick days will not be required.
 - Currently being run by Clair and Tara next Thursday Oct 7th to see how it goes.
 - Purchase method will be revisited afterwards if required.
 - All schools in Perth trying it out to see how it goes.
- Possible Popcorn Friday
 - According to the food guidelines, there is no reason we cannot do this.
 - Anyone can prepare the popcorn so long as they have passed the covid screening test and proper preparation protocols are followed.
- Experimental learning opportunities being brought in to bring more interest to learning.
 - Community connections and hands on learning.
 - Hands on learning:
 - 4/5's opening a candy store - learning how to count money through this activity
- Juniors are not to have phones on hand during school hours
 - Have noticed a big improvement where students are not distracted and texting during learning time.
- Have noticed with the transition back to in class learning, some little ones are having issues sitting in chairs and staying focused.
 - Hopeful resolution for smooth transition: providing kids with calming items, bean bag chairs etc. This will come in time.

All students:

- A lot of students haven't had pen and paper practice due to online learning during covid and their hand muscles/coordination have/has weakened.
 - Resolution: Moving away from screen and phone use for learning purposes
 - Eg) tablets in classrooms with learning apps etc. being limited

Sports:

- SPORTS COMING BACK!!!
 - Unfortunately, we cannot have tournaments with other schools, however, we are still able to have mini tournaments between peers.

Field Trips:

- Field trips coming back sometime in the future, this includes swimming lessons.
 - on hold right due to covid, but will be reviewed and more info to come.

School clothing:

- Looking at ordering from "Attention Getters" (in Kingston).
 - PDCI used this provider back in May/June and it went very well.
- They are running a promo right now where 1x T-shirt, 1x Long sleeve, and 1x hoodie are all \$38.95 +tax.
 - more affordable way for parents/guardians purchasing - last time, a sweater alone was 40\$.
- Confirmed good quality clothes.

Q: Do they make kids masks?

A: Ashley is not sure - They do provide water bottles etc, but their current promo is only on the clothing bundle.

- Ashley will email back, find out more info and what is involved with ordering and will ask about masks for the kids and water bottles

Suggested by Claire: we could purchase water bottles as prizes for students

Q: Are emblems embroidered or iron on?

A: Iron on - similar to what we've gotten in the past, again, quality is REALLY GOOD and worth that cost for sure.

- Significant number of new students and staff that can get their hands on the GT merch
- We could re-introduce Spirit wear Fridays.

Notes:

- Tina was trying to join, but having trouble with teams

Q/A time:

Q (Emma): Wondering what the staff to student ratio is during outside recess time as her children have brought up multiple times that there has been a lot more physical contact/bullying happening during this time?

A (Claire): Currently Primary students have 1 staff member allocated to the 1/2 and 2/3 classes. The 4/5's and 5/6's have 1 staff member per class.

- Starting (hopefully) next week, the 1/2's and 3/4's play areas will be shrunk for better supervision, and they will be separated until intermingling improves.

Q (Brittany): Courtney asked about scientists in school? Has Parent Council paid for this already, and when will it start in the school? If we have not paid, can the Parent Council cover the cost to get it up and running?

A (Claire): Maria, our financial assistant, is supposed to be checking up on this for us and we are just waiting to hear back from her.

The kits have been delivered and Parent Council has said they would pay for it, per usual, but we cannot do anything until we hear back from Maria.

Q (Claire): How can we make it easier for parents to reach out to me for anything at all.

A (Emma): Is it possible to add a button onto the GT Facebook page that give this information instantly? Reference PDCI's Facebook page that has "CALL US" right on the main page. When clicking, it provides the phone number instantly, no searching required.

Is it possible to add an email address to the Google search engine, providing the contact email address as a hyperlink that would automatically open a "compose" email to send? All the parent/guardian would have to do is add the subject line and body of the email then click send.

Upcoming PC meetings:

- Meetings will remain virtual for now.
- Set meeting for the year – Confirmed these will happen every 2 months on the first Thursday of each month
- Current schedule:
 - Nov 4th / Jan 6th / March 3rd / June 2nd