

CENTRAL SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Creating Community and Culture | Création d'une Communauté et de la Culture

Mandate

To contribute to student achievement and well-being at Central Public School by enhancing communication between the school and the school community, also creating a community and culture that supports the active participation of parents and the school community.

Officers

Chair: C. Silversides
 Vice-Chair: L. Davidson
 Secretary: S. Rapin
 Treasurer: H. Etherington
 Fundraising: B. O'Shaughnessy
 Fundscrip: E. Ens
 Lunch: M. Barnard

Representatives

Parents: A. Bromley, B. Gibson,
 B. El-Hassan, J. MacDonnell, K.
 Litke, K. Kuiper, K. O'Connor, L.
 Wohlgemut, L. Padgett, L.
 Pitkeathly, L. Greenwood, M.
 Afnan, M. Cowan, N.
 Zydownyk, O. Glukhov, S. Bell,
 S. Mercuri, T. Mercuri

Principal: M. Zeoli, Student:
 Hailey M., Community: M.
 Petrino



Welcome/Bienvenue!

This is the inaugural edition of the Central School Council News, with plans to put out a seasonal newsletter quarterly. Your council has been working on initiatives that fall in line with the purpose of school councils according to the Ontario Regulation 612/00, "...through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents." Studies show that parent participation is key for student achievement, both school-based and home-based family engagement. Council wants to help parents with this effort. Everything from becoming a council member to taking on meaningful volunteer activities, talking with your children about their day to reading with your children are all good ways to be actively involved in your child's education.

Council:

Business Plan introduced at February meeting, work in progress.

New Community Representative on council: Midge Petrino.

Parent Survey for council feedback will be sent out late March.

Fundraising initiatives: Weekly Pizza Pizza slices, bi-monthly Lunch Lady lunches, weekly Kernels Popcorn snack bags,





Committees

Parent Resource Centre

S. Mercuri, M. Cowan

Playground

N. Zydownyk, L. Wohlgemut, H. Etherington, G. Polmanter-Gentle, L. Pitkeathly, L. Davidson

Contact Council if you would like to become Committee Member.

Meetings

Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of December and March. All parents and community members are welcome. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Central Public School Library. Child care is available.

Remaining meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year:

- April 14
- May 12
- June 9

MacMillan's Favourites winter campaign, and Dance-a-Rama in the works for spring. Spending of council funds raised to be discussed at April meeting.

Community:

The Senator Gibson Public School Advisory Council had invited parents of Central students to attend a presentation on Social Networking Safety with Paul Davis in early March. This dynamic speaker presented to both students during the day and parents in the evening, well-worth of every minute of his 90-minute presentation. Council might arrange for Davis to speak at Central in 2015-2016. His website: www.snstips.com

The Grimsby Secondary School's Parent Advisory Council speaker series taking place on March 31st from 7-9 pm is on "Brain Changes in Teenage Years" with Dr. Jean Clinton and it is open to the community to attend.

Communication:

Central School Council page on the Central School website.

A new Central School Council Parent Resource Centre is being set-up at Central School, and online: www.cscprc.weebly.com

Facebook Group Page: Central School Council Grimsby

Council Email: conseildecolecentral@gmail.com

Technology:

Council arranged for Todd Sniezek, an IT4 Learning Consultant from DSBN School Support Services, to give a presentation to council at our February meeting on technology at school. The DSBN provides Microsoft Office free for students on up to 5 devices, go to <http://goo.gl/argBcP> for tutorial. Office 365 online tools and Google Apps for Education are also accessible by both teachers and students. Every student has a Gmail address and unlimited storage on Google Drive.

French:

The annual celebration of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie celebrating French heritage and culture has begun and continues until March 22nd! www.rvf.ca/home.php

Council helped to get French Language Courses going at Grimsby Secondary School with Conversational on every other Wednesday which began on March 11th, and Beginning on every other Tuesday starting on March 24th, both for six sessions each. Walk-in registrations are accepted on first night of course.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is holding a free event for parents in Niagara Falls, on Thursday, March 26th at 7 pm, topics: Tips to support children in French programs, Multiple Intelligences and Learning Styles. Register online: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/free-conversation-cafe-registration-15804941004>

CPF membership is being purchased by council which will give parents access to more resources beyond what is available on the CPF website (<http://on.cpf.ca>), the opportunity to apply for grants to help with parent engagement, and this membership will also count towards creating a CPF Chapter in Niagara.

Grants:

Council is in the planning stages for various grants.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO):

Funded by the Ministry of Education, application for up to \$1,000.00 is available annually to be applied towards involving more parents in support of student achievement and well-being.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC):

The Ministry of Education allocates \$500.00 to each school annually which does not require an application. The funds are to be applied towards parent involvement, outreach, and communication. The 2014-2015 funds are being used for the new Parent Resource Centre being set-up at Central Public School. Plans are to have books and activities available for parents to check-out among other resources.



Canadian Parents for French (CPF):

The CPF organization offers various grants for parent involvement which are being looked into.

On behalf of the Central School Council, Happy March Break!!!

Newsletter developed and written by Cynthia Silversides, Central School Council Chair

All suggestions and feedback are welcomed! Write me at: conseildecolecentral@gmail.com