

Buckhorn public school Parent council meeting December 2/2021

Attendance

Theresa Therrien	Endrit Karaj	Susan Guest	Caroline VanNoort
Allison Schultz	Ashley Garbutt	Kirsty Hill	Michelle Cochrane
Michelle North	Rachelle Duffus		

Next meeting is scheduled for February 3/2022 at 6:30 pm

Principal's Report

Shelley Robbins – LTO until June 2022

To all my Buckhorn Bears,

It has been beyond a privilege to be able to be a part of Buckhorn Public School, not once but twice, 12 years altogether, during my career. Both my daughters went through Buckhorn and as they have moved on, I have decided to try a new adventure within our School Board. The memories I have from not just the events and amazing experiences our school provides, but just everyday with the students and staff at Buckhorn. The Buckhorn Community is unbeatable and I've been very lucky to develop some incredible relationships with parents and volunteers. My Bears you should be VERY proud of the people you are as I tell everyone how proud I am of you. Never stop being yourself and creating dreams to push towards. I can't say goodbye. See You Soon Mrs. Robbins

50th Anniversary Survey

In the fall of 2022, Buckhorn Public School will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. We are looking for input from the community as we plan our celebrations.

I have sent a copy to all staff and school council for input.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XCoCx70HZLXJpJYzSAGPVBD1GqOzCeVDhzsS1OKPga0/edit?usp=drive_web

School Improvement Plan

Safety

Installation of new railing running parallel to school towards portables down slope to ensure no one slips.

Painting of edges of stone steps with addition of clear coat grit to ensure safe walking.

December Festivities

Santa Claus Parade – 2 floats, 30 students thus far confirmed. Students will adorn decorated Santa Hats (grade 4 leadership).

Bear – Grade 6’s have chosen a mascot; “Bear.” Bear will be introduced to the school in an Elf in the Shelf, position, script and presentation done by the grade 6 leaders every day in December.

Spirit Week

- Monday -Holiday Hair Day
- Tuesday – Pajama and Cozy Day
- Wednesday – Classes snowman building
- Thursday- Holiday Twin Day
- Friday- Ugly Sweater Day and Red / Green Day

Kids Have Stress Too

Child and Youth Worker, Cailey McCallum, has begun Kids Have Stress Too lessons throughout the school. “This research-based program is built on an experiential learning approach. Its aim is to help educators create teachable moments to introduce stress management strategies and build emotional resiliency.

The goals of the program are:

- To teach children how to recognize and deal with stress
- To help teachers create a peaceful environment in their classroom by promoting self-regulation in students.”

Classroom Moves

Stephanie Cavanaugh’s Grade 6’s in the portable. Matthew Cole’s Grade 2/3 the room closest to the office. Library to be completed Friday.

Looking for Input

Our school day ends at 3:15. We made 3:00 pick up for families who wanted to pick up their child(ren). We understand that sometimes there are appointments and students needs to be picked up early, and some parents want to pick up early because of snow, however starting at 2:00 there is consistent stream of parents coming to pick up children, interrupting learning.

Wondering if council has any solutions we haven’t explored; many thanks.

Parent council discussed that the principal should send out an email stating that parents should be picking up their child/children between 3-3:15. Maybe parents were not clear on what the appropriate time to pick their child up was.

Treasurer’s Report

Yesterday was the first day of the Pizza Alloro Wednesday towards the school fundraiser, this brought in an estimated \$170 for the school. At an average of \$160 a week, barring any unforeseen closures etc. the school should be looking at just over \$2,500 from this fundraiser.

No update on the Scentsy fundraiser as of yet. Pending.

We'll get a clearer picture of funds remaining in the Stone Scape/Slobodian Trust account, unless Rachelle has that exact info. My hope and understanding is that this trust account is now depleted and funds have been better utilized.

From my understanding, once all has been transferred for equipment inspection costs along with any funds used towards Disc Golf, there may have been \$1,900 left, that should have been transferred to a newly opened Play Structure fund account. This is a new account where any Play Structure donations will accumulate. I will verify this hopefully for our next Parent Council meeting.

At previous meeting we committed funds to Forrester reading, which has been ordered and paid for; will provide specifics as to exact cost at next Parent Council meeting.

We also committed to pay for guest Jimmy Chapman, still likely pending a date. Perhaps in the Spring?

I believe we were asking families at the school to contribute \$5 per child towards Jimmy Chapman, and \$3 per child towards Forrester reading. I have no details as to how effective that request has been and hope to have details at our next Parent Council meeting.

Old FlipGive accounts still have money remaining in them. Parent council discussed transferring the money from these accounts into the parent council account.

\$1050.30 in the Buckhorn Bears account;

\$169.59 in the Buckhorn Public School account; and

\$117.88 in the Buckhorn Bears 2020 account, for a total of **\$1337.77 available to withdraw**.

This amount excludes the current year's campaign efforts to date (which currently stand at \$350.07) and the \$1215.25 previously withdrawn and deposited to the Parent Council coffers in 2019.

Fundraising

Allison was given a fundraising spreadsheet with fundraising ideas from Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board. We are excited to look at this in the future and discuss ideas.

Chair's Report

We would like to include families and parents in the community and connect with them. Some families have reported that the council meeting time of 6:00 is hard to attend due to other commitments. Council was open to changing the time to 6:30/7.

Parent council portal on the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board site has not been created as of yet. Still working on the details of this.

Council was open to starting a Facebook group for all parents of children attending the school. It would be moderated, and limited to appropriate content. Ashley, Allison and Caroline offered to admin. the page. The hope was that families could interact casually, and send reminders about meetings, school events etc. A Facebook group was created Dec 3, and named Buckhorn Public School Parent Social Group. Members need to answer a couple of questions to be added to the group.

Council also discussed having a portion of the monthly newsletter that the principal is sending out to families. We feel like better communication will allow families to feel included in decisions. Mrs.Duffus gave council members the dates in which to have the info to her by, so that it can be included. Council discussed in person meetings in the future. Mrs.Duffus stated that to meet in person people must be a “volunteer” for the school and require a police check for vulnerable populations, and be double vaccinated, and also social distance. We will also have virtual connection as well, for those who are unable to attend in person. Council also spoke of difficulties recruiting new members when there are not any face/face opportunities currently happening in the community.

Parents reaching out grant is a grant application that is available to us. The purpose of the grant is to build bridges between the school and parents, bringing them closer together for the children. We discussed multiple areas where we could use this money, but finally settled on having an Indigenous speaker come to the school either in person or virtually. Maybe they could teach hoop dancing or some things about their culture/heritage. Endrit spoke of the website thelandbetween.ca and wondered if someone from this group could come and speak to the school and families.

Playground

We need to fundraise approximately \$50,000 to have the new playground installed on the school property.

Pizza Alloro has pledged to donate to the project. Council is also applying for a grant from Trent Lakes for funding as well. We will be asking larger donors personally as well.

The ground that the play structure will be built on also requires maintenance and prep. A new surface needs to be put under where we would like the play structure to be.

Lost and found

A few parents were wondering about how they can access the lost and found in the school to check for missing items. Speak with secretarial staff, and ask to come inside to see if you can check the lost and found.

