

IMMACULATA PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

ATTENDEES

JOHN CAMPBELL, KATE DUSIK, KIM MACAULAY, VAL BOBYN, TINA SHALANSKY, MARIE BALDIGARA, JENNIFER NEWMAN, KRYSZYNA WERBOWY, SUSAN PLOEGMAN, DAWNA DAY, ELENA TOSTENSON, CATHY VAN DE SYPE, CORRENE MARTIN, MICHELLE ODERMATT, LORRAINE MILLER, BONNY LALACH

1. **OPENING PRAYER: 7:01 p.m.**

John Campbell read the opening prayer from “The Joy in Loving (Mother Teresa).

2. **PRESIDENT - KATE DUSIK**

Kate welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. The opening day breakfast held on September 8th. Apples, bagels, cream cheese were provided, however the “new students” appeared to be a bit preoccupied by the morning’s excitement. The left-over food will be available at the upcoming bottle drive.

DISCUSSION

It was suggested that we not give up the idea of an “opening day” welcoming, but to move it inside where the new students are not so distracted or intimidated by their first day of school.

A suggestion was brought forward that the grades 12’s arrive later in the morning to avoid the “chaos on the first morning. Kate and Mr. Campbell suggested that we address this issue in the spring to prepare for September of 2010. It was suggested that a possible solution might be to have the grade 12’s “buddy up” with the grade 8’s.

Kate reported while speaking with Calli Lange, PSG President of St. Joseph’s Elementary, she suggested that the two PSG’s come together to unite and provide an evening of discussion about the two schools’ activities and concerns. Perhaps a learning seminar like what was presented at St. Joseph’s last year when Liz Sage spoke about fitness would bring more parents out.

Kate provided an update on the bottle drive to be held on September 25, 2009 by Mrs. Nat Mlikotic, who has volunteered to coordinate this fundraiser. A bottle drop service will be available at the back of Immaculata on Friday morning; Kate will be on hand to receive any donations. Sign up and start time for Saturday morning is at 8:00 a.m. The bottles must be sorted and organized by 1:00 p.m. on this day for pick up by the Bottle Depot. Carey Small has graciously offered to transport all bottles not sorted and organized by 1:00 p.m. to the depot.

b) VICE PRESIDENT – KIM MACAULAY

Kim did not have a report prepared as this was her first meeting as Vice President and she would report after she met with Kate Dusik.

c) SECRETARY – BONNY LALACH

Bonny was introduced. Correspondence from the following individuals was read:

1. Mrs. Fran Hooker – a warm-hearted note written July 1, 2009 thanking the PSG for all their work during her retirement year (June 2009) and how much it meant to her that the PSG honored her. Mrs. Hooker also thanked the PSG for all the activities and gifts that made are such a memorable celebration of her 50 years of teaching.
2. Mrs. Fran Hooker – to the members of the PSG for their generous support of post-secondary education by means of financial assistance. Mrs. Hooker guided the recipients in sending letters to the donors of the gifts of assistance not only when they are received, but during and after their education to remind them how thankful they are for these gifts.
3. Jazz Camp – a few of our students were fortunate to receive funding from the PSG to attend “Sizzling Sounds of Jazz Camp” this summer. The following students wrote “thank you notes”:
 - a) Brandon Shalansky
 - b) Ryan Stratychuk
 - c) Geoff Webb
4. Bursary Awards – two students wrote cards of appreciation for being awarded bursaries by the PSG:
 - a) Courtney Campbell
 - b) Jenna Biollo
5. Thank you card to the “Fruity Friday team” from the staff of Immaculata for the “great food, treats, and surprises provided on Friday mornings”.
6. Thank you card and picture of new baby “Sascha” Richard for the gift from the PSG and for all the work the PSG does to support the teachers and the school.

d) TREASURER – ROSEMARIE KING

Absent, no report at this time.

e) SOCIAL CO-ORDINATORS – VAL BOBYN, ELENA TOSTENSON

After being asked by the group what they would prefer to be provided as refreshments, it was decided to keep it “low key” and provide bottled water and “light appetizers” (cookies, crackers).

f) FUNDRAISING CO-ORDINATOR – LORRAINE MILLER

Lorraine had the following suggestions for the year's fundraising:

September	Entertainment books are underway
October	Blenz Coffee
November	Magazine Orders
December	Devry Greenhouse – poinsettias
January	OFF
February	Purdy's chocolates
March	Spring Break – OFF
April	Devry Greenhouse – bedding plants
May	Sysco Meats
June	OFF

Discussion was held regarding fundraising. Some concern was raised regarding which month the Purdy's fundraiser would be most successful (i.e. Christmas and Easter). Some discussion was held regarding the Entertainment book fundraiser as this is Correne Martin's last year organizing this lucrative fundraiser. Some people would like to give it a rest, while others pointed out the fantastic coupons available this year that made the purchase of the book "pay for itself". Calli Lange was suggested as someone that might be interested in taking this fundraiser over next year.

Correne Martin suggested that everyone consider that if Immaculata gives up this fundraiser, St. Joseph's also loses out too as we work together for the financial benefits.

Kate Dusik added that we might consider approaching the McFadden family who owns the Lavender Farm for the spring fundraiser, in place of the Devry Greenhouse so that we may support our school family.

g) COMMUNICATION CO-ORDINATOR

JENNIFER NEWMAN offered to take this position as a liaison between the school council and our PSG, Council gratefully appreciates her stepping forward for this very important position.

h) COBSS

Val Bobyn, Tina Shalansky and Marie Baldigara were present as members of the committee. Val reported on what this committee is about and how important it is to have the grade 12 students apply as there are so many bursaries and scholarships available through this organization. Val explained how each year in March the three members attend the COBSS event for an entire week and hear stories of bursary and scholarship applicants and how moving this week can be. She invited anyone interested in joining the COBSS team to come forward as there is always room for more members.

Tina Shalansky reported that it is important Immaculata be up-to-date in the process of applying for bursaries and scholarships and get our applications and forms “on-line.”

i) **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

John Campbell reported that he is working on providing a weekly newsletter for communication purposes and is going to continue with this format. John reported that interim report cards were being sent on-line and this way reports come to parents more frequently informed. The staff is happy with this system.

John reported that although there was a small turn-out for the “meet the teacher barbeque” held on September 17, 2009, that he was pleased with the turn-out of new students and parents. John reminded us that this is a great opportunity to meet the teachers and put a “face to the name”. The student handbook was not provided that evening as it was a small turn-out, but instead the handbook will be provided with the first report card.

Everyone is excited about the Terry Fox run that is coming up on September 25, 2009 and the Student Council is working hard to iron out the details to make this day a success.

On **October 8, 2009**, at the school mass, there will be a baby baptism for Grant Richard’s new baby, Sascha. John invited everyone to attend this special day.

On **October 16, 2009** the Immaculata School Fast will take place.

There are two Professional Development Days happening in October. Some teachers from Immaculata will attend local Development workshops and some (like Bob Mack) will attend workshops in Whistler, B.C.

There was a question brought forward regarding Professional Days and when to expect them. John suggested referring to “A Week at a Glance”, a photocopied calendar that provides dates for all school events, including Pro-D days.

On **October 27, 2009**, School Council will host a “Halloween Dance”.

John reported that hopefully in approximately three weeks there will be a website up and running that will be “3 prong” including information regarding Immaculata High School, St. Joseph’s Elementary and our School Council.

John informed all present that the school was preparing for the H1N1 virus that is expected to affect us. John presented a hand sanitizer and 8 bottles of the solution that has been offered for sale by a past graduate of Immaculata, at the cost of \$498.54 including GST. These sanitizers contain a minimum of 50% alcohol to kill germs. These sanitizers run on three “C” size batteries.

There was discussion about these sanitizers, the cost, and the effectiveness.

Elena Tostenson made a motion to purchase the five dispensers and eight bottles of sanitizers at \$498.54 including GST. Kim Macaulay seconded the motion. Council voted in favour. MOTION CARRIED.

John reported he will be in touch with Interior Health if an outbreak of the H1N1 flu erupts and will follow their instructions and guidelines with respect to closing the school if necessary.

John reported on an offer by Andrew Walker's family to participate in a local program from the National program called "Smart Risk". John explained that Andrew Walker was killed this past summer in a high risk, tragic accident. Andrew's parents are offering a program to two representatives of our school (preferably grade 11 students, one male and one female) to participate and report back to our school. The Walker family has also provided this opportunity to other public schools in School District 23 in Kelowna.

Finally, John informed us of a program he believes to be valuable to our students. The program is called "Power of Choice" and is offered by Scott Gallagher. This program is a one day seminar with the option of individual students following-through for one-on-one counseling sessions. This program costs \$2,000.00 and Mrs. Kueber, our school counselor has looked at it. It was suggested by Mr. Gallagher that he present his program while in Kelowna for the Okanagan Marathon which he is participating in on October 11, 2009.

There was positive discussion regarding this program, however, it was decided by the PSG that this date is coming up a bit too quickly and we need to take our time to determine if this is a program is something we would like to offer our students in the future, after we have had time to investigate it. John suggested all present and all reading these minutes go and do their "homework" and decide if this program is something we would like to consider.

MEETING DISMISSED: 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.