

H.M.K. Parent Council
November 17, 2009
7:00 p.m. Staff Room

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Jason Epp.

Review of agenda

1. Principal's report

new fundraiser for HMK ~ discount cards for \$10, only 2 cards per family (aprx 530 cards in total to be sold), great deals from local businesses, selling will begin next week
collective bargaining for teachers has resulted in teachers receiving duty free lunches (this division is the 35th division to implement duty free lunch hours for teachers) ~ as of February 1, 2010, educational assistants will be on duty at lunch (their job assignments will change to accommodate the change ~ school is receiving extra funding from the school division to ensure that students are safe on the playground and still receiving the care they need in the classroom ~ the change will allow more staff members to be on the playground; therefore, parents will not be needed to assist with supervision (no more parent helpers at lunch)

librarian ~ Mrs. Johnson will be retiring at the end of December after many years of service within the school ~ she is an important leader in helping students become better readers ~ a newspaper advertisement is in the local papers to find a replacement

important activities - noon skating starts this week (Wednesday and Thursday) ~ parent teacher interviews next week ~ no school on November 27 ~ Christmas plays on December 14 and 15

attendance tracking – it is normal for 15-20 students to be away each day for various reasons (highest number of children missing was on Monday, November 16, when 30 students were away ~ the next day there were 19 students away which is in the normal range) ~ if 10% of the school population is missing public health is contacted ~ check the H.M.K. website for daily updates about absenteeism

2. Scoop-a-lot update

Product pick up was today ~ sold about \$11,000 worth of product which results in approximately \$4,000 in profit (which is distributed at the March meeting) ~ next year we need to be sure that all information says to write cheques payable to Parent Council instead of the school (money is separate)

A huge thank-you to everyone that purchased, sold, or helped organize the fundraiser. A special thank-you to Pat Paramor, Shannon Jardine, and Pat Ernest, and to Gardewine North for donating use of the freezer truck on the day of distribution!!

3. Elections

President – Jason Epp (runs meetings, makes agendas, oversees the council, schedules special guests)

Vice-President – Cheryl Beaumont (assists president, newsletter notices)

Secretary – Cheryl Beaumont (records minutes, writes thank-you cards)

Treasurer – Jason Epp (makes deposits, writes cheques, oversees other financial jobs such as assisting with fundraising funds)

Fundraising – Pat Paramor (Scoop-A-Lot fundraiser)

We still need someone to coordinate finding the baby-sitter (is a paid position – toys are provided by the school)

4. Future Topics/Presentations

January – Sherry Hockin from Whitey’s Fitness will speak about nutrition and fitness levels in children – will be discussing ways parents can help keep their children healthy

March – requests for funds (teachers or parents can present their ideas about needs within the school that fundraising funds could be used for)

May – summer reading program or other summer activities that will help keep our children entertained and learning throughout the summer

*March and May presentation ideas are flexible and if anyone has any input please contact Jason Epp.

5. Open Discussion

- students will receive an autographed card from the Olympian that was at the school
- idea about fun day fair in the gym was brought to the table but parent was not there to present idea
- teacher appreciation week is coming up in February ~ “Olympics” as a possible theme (come to the January meeting with your ideas)

6. Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting January 19 at 7:00 in the staff room ~ coffee and baby-sitters provided

Guest Speaker – Jayme Menzies from “French for Life”

French for Life is a support system for parents and teachers to assist them with teaching children French. Two hundred million people in the world, 30% of Canadians, and 10% of Manitoba citizens speak French. Speaking a second language enhances thinking skills, teaches people to multi-task, and gives people more opportunities in work, travel, and in their personal lives. Jayme suggested ways to support our children when learning French. French for life has many ideas that could be implemented at school and at home.

A side note – The French program at H.M.K. is considered a Basic French Program. H.M.K. has adopted the AIM program in the upper grades that uses sign language as gestures to help students express themselves in French. A grade 7 student demonstrated how she could have a conversation in French and Jayme was impressed! One of the French teachers explained how the program works at H.M.K.

If anyone is interested in more information ~ search www.frenchforlife.ca

Watch for a survey in the upcoming newsletter to get feedback about different activities that could be introduced by the school or parent council to encourage students to speak French.