



Oct 29th 2012 PAC meeting. Gordon library. 7–8:30pm

Present: PAC Co–Chairs Karen Wood and Jane Pike, Secretary, Treasurer, Principal, Vice Principal and about 20 parents/caregivers

1. Working together

- Small group activity, working together to keep the balloon in the air.

2. Learning Styles

- Margaret Davidson & Natalie Morissette – What is your child’s learning style?

There are **many ways of learning**, and all of us have different parts of each of them: linguistic, logical/mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily/kinesthetic, naturalistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal learning styles. Children, even grade 1, know how they learn best – listen to what they say about this.

Book recommendation: Discover your child’s learning style by Victoria Kindle Hodson.

Different scales of learning: active to reflective, sensing to intuitive, visual to verbal, sequential to global.

Celebrate versus criticize – celebrate your child’s skills, accomplishments and uniqueness. Don’t compare student to sibling/other student in their class. When kids don’t know why they are not so strong at something, they get frustrated. If they understand why, their anxiety goes down. Our jobs as parents and educators is to celebrate their strengths, and work with them on their weaknesses to close the gap. It is rare that a child is strong in everything. Find out what they are passionate about and let them be a teacher in that area.

Respond vs react. A responsive parent listens to and acknowledge a child’s feelings. All children want to be heard. They are honest if you listen. If you ask them questions they will answer.

Wait time: when you ask a question give them time to think about it before moving on. It is longer than you think.

Following: letting child take risks and explore. Let it be OK for them to make mistakes. They want to please, and be good. We have to give them credit when they make mistakes as long as they are telling the truth.

Expand versus exclude.

Ask about their day, but use specific questions. “Tell me one thing you did today”, or “Did you do art today?” If you ask best and worst, you are qualifying what they have done. They want you to be proud. Things will sometimes come out slowly; walking with them helps some people to start talking. Talking about your day may bring out their thoughts. Kids hear a lot about what is happening in the world. They will share their fears given time to talk.



General Gordon Elementary School



3. Direct Donation

- **THANK YOU** – Close to \$10k raised, 2 more weeks to collect late donations, update of allocations to be posted in newsletter.
- Paypal was a third of the donations, so maybe made the difference from last year. Maybe run it for longer next year. Electronic reminder half way through, along with the newsletter reminder.

4. Upcoming PAC Activities

- **Class Rep get-together** – 1st Nov Milestones 8pm
- **Seismic presentation** – 26th November 7pm
- **Winter Fair and concert.**
Not sure whether it will be a day or night concert – to be announced.
PAC runs a coffee and goodies stand as a fundraiser.
- **Winter Decorations**
 - Tricia will coordinate the 20 volunteers that signed up.

5. Other Business

- **Christmas Cards** coordinated by Alex Sinclair. Thank you.
- **Sushi program** coordinated by Denise, Alex. Making about \$80 a week. Orders went down the week they were not handed out to everyone, but every week is too much for teachers to be handing out forms. Currently designing a one-month form, to switch to in January.
- **Medical room** question – what is the procedure on cleaning the blankets? The room is cleaned by the engineers. Aluba volunteered to wash the blankets.
- **Labels labels** – explanation and promotion by Sheila
- **Cash cards** – increase awareness by sending out attachment with rep emails.
- **Movember** event proposed by student council, to raise awareness for prostate cancer, and possibly run a fundraiser.
- **Cultural day and potluck** – proposed by student council. Too busy to run in December. Wait until the New Year/March 21st, International Day/Family Day.
- **Anti bullying day** proposed by student council – Colleen and Alex volunteered to help coordinate. High school students could come and speak.
- **PA system** is shot. Need a new one that can transfer to new school. Wireless?
- **Firedrill and earthquake drills** happening.
- **Dance** – One teacher would like to teach to whole school hiphop.
- **Red cross** trainer is offering to teach students in first aid. Full day with certification, maybe for grade 6 and 7s. \$20 per student if enough sign up.

6. Voting

- Motion raised at previous meeting to allocate \$10,000 loan to the Cash Card Prog for Safeway cards (10%). Moved by Ingrid Sulston, 2nd by Miles Blank.
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