



PAC meeting

November 28th from 7:30pm–9:00pm

Gordon Elementary Library

Agenda:

7:30-8:10pm

Alayna Kruger and Orli Mate

Presentation: "Parenting to Enhance Children's Educational Experiences"

Discussion on Parental involvement in schooling at Elementary level:

- Monitor homework
- Reading with kids
- Attending field trips
- Being involved in school – be present (PAC meetings)
- Extra-curricular coaching activities
- Talking to other parents

Research suggests that kids with involved parents obtain better grades in long term, higher self-esteem, and greater social skills. Schools with higher multicultural parental involvement also really helps children succeed. Sometimes it requires parents to overcome barriers to become involved in kids learning. In class offering teachers your skills to help will often open up channels rather than taking approach of I will do this for you, which may create resistance with teachers. If teachers do not invite you into the class it is not a reflection on you personally.

Teachers need to balance 20 plus childrens learning in a cohesive way, which may or may not have room for external help.

Laying the foundation for parental involvement at an early age, makes things easier through-out their schooling life, and gives the child the opportunity to ask parents to be involved later on.

1. Subtle parenting techniques include:
 - a. Maintain schooling expectations (not about straight A's) but support to go on to further education
 - b. Open communication
 - c. Authorative parenting style (set structure at home for homework)
2. Overt ways include:
 - a. Maintain contact with teachers
 - b. Supervise homework and get involved.
3. Other ways:
 - a. Get involved in policy of school

One model produced by Epstein suggests that the more the School, Community and Home systems are integrated the easier it is for a child to navigate their world. Children like boundaries and structure. When systems are integrated it makes it much easier for a child.

Challenges to involvement include:

- Working parents having time to volunteer.
- Special needs requirements
- Having multiple children in school at same time
- Teacher resistance
- Communicating with children at the right time (in dark at bedtime? Ask questions in open ended way.)

Resources which help parents to become involved include:

- School website
- www.edu.gov.on.ca/parents/involvement

- www.pbs.org/teachers
- www.pbs.org/parents
- www.bc211.ca
- www.kitshouse.org
- www.westsidefamilyplace.com

8:10-8:30pm

Hot lunches and fundraising brainstorming

- Proposal for parents to research options for hot lunches to propose to PAC. Purpose of program is to feed kids, not as fundraiser Elke & Denise will investigate. Suggestion to subsidise kids that can't afford lunches if profits made.

School Calendar

- Need to investigate options to print at cheaper rates. Last year didn't print and very few parents printed it. PAC to investigate print options.

Monetary vote for Lunchtime Chess club on Tuesdays at Gordon (\$25 per week, can PAC contribute 50% \$12.50)

- Unanimous vote to loan \$150 towards program

Winter food donation

- Gordon often does a winter donation. Foodbank will be supported as the charity. Ingrid to organise with parents to write request to parents. Class reps to send out details to parents.

Winter crafts fair

- Dec 8th 3-5pm children's crafts to be sold at the fair. Miriam will organise in the hall way. Cake money will go to PAC funds.

Santa's workshop

- To be held last week of Dec where parents donate presents for kids to purchase for \$1 for their families.

Gordon Buzz newsletter

- Kids very enthusiastic about Buzz. Aim to get all kids in school contributing to the newspaper. If contributions don't go into

newsletter they will go into blog. The Newsletter will be sent home via email & few printed.

Recycling

- GG involved with Encorp recycling as a school fundraiser. Counts of all collections are kept and prizes can be won at the end of the season (June). We are competing against schools with 400 kids. Elke looking for someone to take over recycling. Kids want to do a recycling club, Margaret looking to kick off. Kevin Milsip is the new sustainability officer for VSB.

Vote for Safeway cards \$10k

- Unanimous vote to loan \$10k to purchase Safeway cards.

Sell products and provide margin as fundraising for PAC

- Looking for parents to propose best way to fundraise using ideas such as
 - o Mabels labels fundraising
 - o Lunch skins – reusable