**ECI School Council Meeting – Minutes**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ECI Library**

Present:

Caroline Rath, Pradeep Pachai, Julie Maciura, Lisa Jones, Karen Miller, Sue Moorhead, Heather Gordon, [Katherine Ross, Kelly Bilenkis and ECI parents.

**1.Opening Comments Pradeep Pachai, Chair**

Pradeep briefly introduced himself and his connection to ECI and welcomed those present. In Cassie Connolly’s absence, Julie Maciura agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.

**2.SAC Report –** Katherine Ross, Kelly Bilenkis

2015 Update

At the start of the year, the SAC organized a free BBQ for all the grade 9 students; the White Pine Executive, as well as SAC, continues to organize events for the grade 9 students.

Recently, the SAC organized the CN Tower Climb which raised money for the United Way. Halloween for Hunger was a big success again this year, with over 600 lbs. of canned goods and non-perishable food items being collected for a local food bank. Halloween Week saw SAC organize various events, such as dodgeball games, pumpkin decorating, pong, a Haunted House and home room door decorating – the winning class for the latter received a free pizza lunch. The Spanish Club also decorated a classroom with a Day of the Dead theme which was very interesting.

The Remembrance Day assembly was very moving and one of the students who plays the bagpipes piped the students in and out of the assembly.

SAC is currently working on organizing activities for “Holiday Week” for the last week before the December school break.

The grade 9 girls had a “pyjama jam” recently. The girls stay at the school until 8:00 p.m. and are chaperoned by grade 11 and 12 girls, as well as a few teachers. It is a great way for the grade 9 girls to meet older female students and to ask lots of questions about school and social life. Ideas for events for grade 9 boys continue to be considered.

There was a recent “buy-out” from class to attend a school football game with the proceeds going to assist, Lee Melymick, a young ECI graduate who recently suffered a severe spinal injury, with renovations to help make his home wheelchair accessible.

Finally, the first edition of the school newspaper will also be published shortly.

**3.Principal’s Report and Update – Caroline Rath**

Principal Caroline Rath summarized the status of ongoing labour disputes. Extracurricular activities are currently still being offered but decisions with respect to what activities teachers will participate in is in a state of flux and so things may change in future.

The White Pine Executive was selected a few weeks ago. Program leaders will be chosen soon. The camp was shortened a bit this year with the campers leaving on the Tuesday of the week; next year they will likely leave on the Monday, just shortly after the counsellors leave. Ms. Todorovski is now in charge of White Pine.

The Leaders of Tomorrow (“LoFT”) program continues to move forward and December 1 will see a workshop, run by an ECI alumni, for the grade 9 LoFT students. On December 14 and 15 a group of grade 10 students who wish to improve their public speaking skills will participate in a workshop at Second City downtown.

The various elements of the LoFT program were reviewed in some detail for those unfamiliar with it.

There will likely be a ski day in February; participation is offered to students in physical education classes first and then if there is room, opened up to the wider student body.

**4.Fundraising – Crooked Cue Event and Field Renovation**

The third annual ECI Parent Social at the Crooked Cue on Bloor Street will take place on November 30, at 7:00 p.m. The ECI music students will be playing at the event and there will also be student art work on display. Organizers have been generous with their time and the community has been generous with donations. A final push for ticket sales should get the event past the 100 attendees mark.

A Committee of approximately six ECI parents has been organized to oversee fundraising for the specific purpose of renovating the track and field behind the school. The current state of the track is so bad that users of it are at risk of injury.

It was agreed that a new track and field would be a great addition to the neighbourhood and would attract community support and be widely used by the surrounding Etobicoke community and not just by ECI students.

The Committee is looking for volunteers who have fundraising, accounting or design skills. It is agreed that corporate donations will be needed to see this project through to its fruition. The anonymous donor has agreed to donate up to $750,000 in matching funds for this project and it would be a shame to not be able to access that money. As such, it was agreed that efforts will be made to try to get this project moving. The consensus was that it would likely take four years to see the project through to completion and so ideally a parent of a grade 9 student would take charge of this project so that he or she could be involved all the way through.

**5.Open Mic**

The possibility of encouraging students to clean up after themselves in the neighbourhood was canvassed. Students littering in the neighbourhood is indeed a problem.

**6.Suggestions for future presentations**

It was agreed that a presentation about the grade 10 White Pine trip would be of benefit at a future School Council meeting and will accordingly be arranged.