

Dunlace Parent Council Meeting - October 20th, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:11pm

Minutes are prepared by: Naadia Mirza

Past Council Executive: Manisha Mehta (Co-Chair), Parsi Mina (Co-Chair), Munir Malik (treasurer), Naadia Mirza (Secretary), Mati Pajo (Bi-Law Representative)

Attendees (some are online names): Ms. Kwon Kwon (principal), Alexia Donoghue, Loveleen Thind, Parsi Mina, Nahlah, Mati Pajo, Farah Merchant, Salima Lakhoo, Katherine Lal, Armaity, Nancy Hanna (teacher), Liza Culligan, Wenjin Liu, Naadia Mirza

1. Welcome Back

- All the parents at the meeting introduced themselves by describing how many kids they had at the school and what grades there are in.

2. Principal Updates by Ms. Kwon

- Mme. Fehringer and Mme. Ranxi's classes did not get a curriculum night due to them both going on a leave of absence until at least November 11th and 10th.
- Ms. Kwon will be sending out emails to parents about which teachers will be replacing them. She mentioned that Mme. El-Jammal, a French-speaking teacher, will be taking over Mme. Ranxi's class 3 days a week and 40 minutes for 3 days in Mme. Fehringer's class. She did mention that they will have English substitutes for the rest of the time. She has inquired from colleagues about getting a permanent French replacement but has not found any yet. She has put out a posting for a need for 2 French qualified teachers for both classes.
- For now, Ms. Michelle Tran is replacing Mme. Fehringer. Mme. El-Jammal will be replacing Mme. Ranxi 3 days a week. Mme. El-Jammal will be teaching in French in Mme. Fehringer's class for 40 minutes 3 days a week as well. Math and Science will be taught in French to this class.
- This year at Dunlace PS, there are only 12 students that are virtual.
- The Dunlace PS library is open again. Students sanitize hands when they share materials like books and games. The teachers may give face shields to the kids when they are doing group activities indoors.
- There is a lot more outdoor learning. Music, Drama and Gym are outside when weather permits (only when it rains or snows, are these subjects indoors).
- Kids should dress in layers as they keep the windows open in classes in order to increase ventilation.
- Kids should be sent to school with an extra pair of socks and gloves in case they get wet.
- There was a minor reorganization in the English classes of grades 1, 2 and 3. 23 students is the largest group.
- Sick Kids are providing rapid Covid testing through saliva kits to all Dunlace students and other people in their households. If your child has a symptom of Covid, a person with no symptoms in the household can come and pick up a saliva kit test and then

deposit it back to school before 11am. Some parents keep their kids in their car when they pick up the saliva test and then have their kids salivate in the container and then give it right back to the office. The results take between 24 to 48 hours to receive.

- Extracurricular activities are returning in November until the end of December; teachers will be leading these activities. Each child can only choose 1 activity per term. The activities are listed in the below table.

Club	Teacher	Day/Time	Grade	Sign Up Location
Outdoor Games	Mr. Yerzy	Mondays-junior Fridays-primary	1-5	Room 207
French Games	Mme Mungala	Tuesdays 12:25-12:55 p.m.	1/2 French Immersion	Room 206
Junior Choir	Ms. Tai	Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:15-8:55 a.m.	4-5	Room 105
Ball Hockey	Ms. MacPherson	Wednesdays 8:15-8:55 a.m.	4-5	Outside gym
Board Games	Mme McInnis	Tuesdays 12:25-12:35 p.m.	Grade 1/2	Room 204
Arts and Crafts	Ms. Hanna and Mme Karaflos	Thursdays 12:25-12:55 p.m.	1-3	Room 104

- Ms. Kwon mentioned the children and staff at Dunlace have been working on a kindness campaign since October. Some examples of this would be encouraging kids to give other kids the benefit of the doubt. For instance, if Ms. Kwon accidentally bumps into Adrian, Adrian gives Ms. Kwon the benefit of the doubt and does not assume that the bumping into him was intentional but rather an accident. The kindness campaign is also

about building community. Kids need to respect each other. Kids will send home kindness notes soon for parents to see.

- Ms. Kwon mentioned that for Grade 3 students, the CCAT will be online this year.
- There will be mid-November progress reports going home.
- For Halloween - on Friday, October 29th, there will be an outdoor dance party, Ms. Kwon and Ms. Tai are organizing this; kids can wear a costume but still are required to wear masks indoors. No treats can be distributed by students or parents. Ms. Kwon is looking into being able to give popcorn bags to students from a supplier.
- Ms. Kwon mentioned that parents had questions about whether they could send their kids to school if they have a runny nose, headache or stomach ache; these are not considered symptoms on their own of Covid. She said it is advisable to keep kids home if they have these symptoms, but they do not need to get a covid test done. They just need to send back the back-to-school attestation form saying they are not sick and have no symptoms of covid. The same form can be used for both Dunlace school and Dunlace Child Care. You don't need to send 2 forms with your child.
- Ms. Kwon mentioned that Je Lis, a reading program for primary students, expires in November, so perhaps the council can provide money to renew this French Reading program.

3. Council Elections

- Manisha Mehta went through a description of the various council positions.
- She explained the Chair and Co-Chair, deal with school administration and organize meetings, lead meetings and prepare agendas for meetings. The chairs previously were Parsi and Manisha. They are remaining Co-Chairs. Nobody else volunteered.
- Manisha said the Treasurer takes care of the budget, revenues and expenses, but it is much simpler with cash online. The treasurer would connect with Josie every 6 to 8 weeks, and there would be a little bit of number crunching. Munir was the treasurer last year and got some guidance from Roger, who was a treasurer in previous years. Munir had left the meeting already so we could not confirm that he wanted to keep this position. Manisha would follow up with him after the meeting to confirm.
- The Secretary takes minutes at every meeting. Naadia was secretary last year and will remain secretary this year as no one else volunteered for this position.
- Grade 5 Chair - Anna and Christine were grade 5 Chairs last year but no one volunteered to be Grade 5 Chair this year yet. The Grade 5 Chair organizes Grade 5 events like their graduation, along with other Grade 5 parents and students. Ms. Kwon will send out an email to Grade 5 parents to see if any of them want to be the Grade 5 Chair.
- Canadian parent for French Rep - This person would attend the Canadian Parent For French Rep meetings and report back to the Dunlace Parent Council with updates. Naadia volunteered for this position. Ms. Kwon will give Naadia Anna's email contact so she can help me out with this position.
- Bi-Law Representative- Mati had this position last year. Mati remains in this position this year.
- Fundraising Chair - nobody took this position.

- Fun Fair Chair - nobody took this position; plus, we don't know if there will be a need for this position if there is no Fun Fair because of Covid.
- The motion was passed by Manisha regarding who was taking what position and Loveleen seconded it.

4. Fundraising

- Ms. Kwon mentioned that pizza lunches can restart as a fundraiser in November, as staff and teachers will spare some of their lunch hour to help out distribute pizza to their students. The Grade 5's will get their own pizza. One of the staff will also count out how many slices are needed for each class. In the past, a lot of money was raised by pizza lunches; so, this is great that this is back and teachers and staff are helping out since parents are not allowed in the school building.
- The Dunlace Parent Council will continue to sell Spirit wear that say "Dunlace Dragons", like t-shirts and sweatshirts for fundraising.
- Naadia mentioned there is another school in the TDSB that uses an app called FlipGive to fundraise. A percentage of a parent's online purchases can be donated to the Dunlace Parent Council using the FlipGive app. This is how it works: one parent needs to create the Dunlace Parent Council as a Team on the FlipGive app. There are many retailers partnered with FlipGive such as Home Depot, Old Navy, Walmart, Amazon, Esso, Sobeys and Indigo. The percentage of each sale that goes to the school can vary between 1% and 5%. For example, if a parent wants to purchase something from Home Depot and wants to donate to the Dunlace Parent Council, the parent downloads the FlipGive app and joins the Dunlace Parent Council Team and then clicks on the retailer, HomeDepot, and then it takes him/her to the Home Depot website and a percentage of his/her purchase, let's say 1%, goes to fundraising for the Dunlace Parent Council. For this to work, we would need to send out an email to parents explaining the fundraising program and what our fundraising goals are and then explain to them to download the FlipGive App and make their online purchases through this app. Naadia has attached a PDF of a sample brochure that explains this concept a little more and shared it with parent council attendees whose emails she had.

5. Other topics

- Ms. Hanna said it would be nice to have class parent reps. However, it would be advisable to ask teachers if they want a class parent rep.
- Ms. Kwon thinks a class parent rep may not be useful because there are no events or field trips, something class parent reps were used for in the past at Dunlace. However, Naadia said we could use a class parent rep to help teachers by sending out emails every couple of weeks so they don't have to send them out so often to parents, about reminders about library and gym days or other spirit days and the like. Ms. Kwon and Ms. Hannah will survey teachers to see if they want a class parent rep for this reason.
- Members of the council also mentioned that Class Parent Reps create a sense of community as well between the parents of the class.

- Some members mentioned the possibility of creating a Facebook or What's App group between parents to create a sense of community between parents. This could help with homework, camps, etc.
- Ms. Kwon reminded everybody that it was Wacky hat and hair day on Friday, October 22nd.

6. Closing remarks

- The next council meeting is November 24th.
- At 8:11pm, there was a motion to end the meeting by Parsi. and Manisha seconded it.