

CALGARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL
February 2 12:15, ES Library

Welcome

Josephine Tite (chair)

- The Chair; Josephine Tite, Principal; Mr. Thiesen, Teacher Rep: absent, Palliser Rep: absent
- Prayer and Devotion (Matthew 25:34-36, 40) “What is your one? How can we begin here?”

Administrator’s Report

Monique Wagenaar, VPrincipal:

Class Representatives:

- Parents can sign up ANY time - not just for your “grade”

Purpose is to:

1. Support the hotdog program
2. Increase attendance of School Council

Notes:

- Can we resurface the document sharing the expectations of this task. And make the role more clear (and why! This is important) when looking for assistance. Remind them, that coordinators don’t have to be in the kitchen but just assist with recruiting help!
- Would like to create a survey to ask class representatives why they signed up to be a class representative and what they enjoy about it. Then use it along with the duties and description of the role for next year when we are asking for volunteers.
- Make the role clear and exciting.
- Would rep be ok to email their grade parents letting them know a highlight or two from the meeting?
- The hotdog fund is appreciated and is very valuable to pay for activities that happen at the school! Can we remind parents why (and what) it pays for.
- last year was struggling to get volunteers.
- Ruth says the second half of the year has been a little difficult.
- Have the SignUp in date order, not by their Grade. (change has been made)
- Class reps need to pass on information to the parents they know and connect with. more voices from all grade representation.
- Generate more ideas from different grade levels

Mike Thiesen (Elementary Principal):

Ongoing development of Literacy Program

- LLI (Levelled Literacy intervention). Monique spends most of her teaching time working with students.
- We didn't have enough books in the levelled reading - so money from the hike was used to purchase, mostly for GrK-2.
- We are looking for more non-fiction at these levels. In Gr4-6 they are reading to learn (not learning to read) and we are looking for books for these levels.
- Mike plans to purchase while at convention in order to receive a discount. In the classroom, guided reading happens in groups of 5 or 6 students (or fewer) with the teacher. Literacy will be part of our fundraising spending for years to come as there are many areas we would like to continue to improve.

Grade 6 Parent Interview Updates

- was changed for this round of P/T, based on feedback from our last School Council - Mike will go to Gr 6 teachers and get feedback to see if that's something to continue in the future.

Society Update:

- Rebranding is on it's way - will be revealed in the Spring.
- Parent Sessions coming, see details on the [school website](#).

School Council Items:

Hike for Health Fundraiser

- On average we raise \$15,000-\$20,000 for the school. That's an average of \$33 per child.
- Options for Health Fundraisers update from Sandy... the importance of fundraising and money being used for our children's education.
- Could we get parent's feedback/data on the hike so that an appropriate decision can be made - possibly a survey sent to parents. Mike will bring this back to our next meeting in April.

Why Invest in School Council?

How can we make parents more aware of the important and awesome things that are happening in School Council and at our school! And the value that is offered.

- 1. Positive Value.** School councils are mandated by the government as a forum for parents to be engaged in the education of the children and participate in decisions that impact student learning and success. It's an opportunity for you to add value and direction.
- 2. Positive Leadership.** Being involved in school council demonstrates leadership to the students. Children learn what they see. Parents who show interest

and involvement in the greater school community are modeling positive leadership skills. Being a leader doesn't mean you need to be at every meeting. Find ways to contribute your skills and time. For example, creating newsletters, encouraging teachers, administrative tasks or research.

3. Positive Collaboration. Investing in school council is a means to creating and maintaining a culture of respect and collaboration. It is critical for the overall health of a school to incorporate the voices of all members including students and parents.

- Get involved in school council. You don't need to attend meeting to be involved. What is the "one" contribution that you can provide?

Staff Appreciation:

- March 5 and 6, providing lunch for teachers
- There's a SignUp Genius for parent help, [linked here](#).

Next meeting: April 11 (evening)

Closing Prayer led by Leona