

# CALGARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 12, 2017

## Welcome & Opening Devotion:

Heather N (co-chair) - opens with devotions: Joy in Excellence, Colossians 3: 1-4

## Administrator's Report:

Mike Thiesen (Elementary Principal)

- Family Behaviour Toolbox - a resource for parenting. This will be passed on to parents to use for behaviours in their family context.
- Discussion of new report card format and method of delivery
  1. What did you think about the new reporting?

Explain to the kids about the reporting method would be helpful.

It was preferred to have the 1-5. Gives a little more clarity. Thank you!

2. Feedback on delivery?

Great that it comes directly to the parent, not through the student. No paper is nice for our environment and when saved in your email, is easily accessible.

- Staffing: New librarian and Literacy Support

-For literacy support Mrs. Wagner has been pulling out students from Grade 2 that are a year or more behind their grade level, 4x per week. We are now going to have 3 more groups from Grade 3 with our new hire (Mrs. Pagenkopf), who will work getting them up to their level text. Mrs. Pagenkopf has been trained by the Palliser literacy specialist for this role.

-Mrs. Thiesen is the new librarian. Mr. Thiesen wanted parents to know that he removed himself from this entire hiring process as he wanted to be very transparent. Two representatives along with our Vice Principal and Executive Director were involved in the interviews. If anyone has questions, you can connect with Mrs. Wagner as she is the supervisor for this position.

- AV2 books introduction - Added Value, Audio Visual Books

You can use their website. Enter a code and there is more information and a video. There are additional activities and links to other weblinks for students to access. Allows for books to be interactive! This segways from print media to digital media. An order is being placed to add to our library using money that was raised by the hike.

- Impactful volunteer experience initiative:

-Mr. Thiesen was appreciative for the many, many volunteers that come to our school!

- Efforts taken

-at Grade Level team meetings time for them to prepare items for the volunteers, particularly Grade K-3. Teachers appreciated the time for this.

Principal Thiesen's review on the past four months:

-a blur! So much training has taken place in the first months off site, so really noticed a difference in December when he was in the building much more. Enjoys being here!

-A treat is to read to Grade 6 as way to thank them for the responsibilities they have here. A unique interaction just between the Principal and these students.

## School Council Items:

- Guest Speaker – Josephine Tite - Positive Psychology initiative at CCS.
  - What is Positive Psychology? A study of human strengths and virtues! I Thes 5:16-22 The dominance of positive emotions over negative emotions. Research shows if you reach the tipping point (3:1) you will reap the benefits.
- Upcoming Parent Sessions in February - Positivity Essentials Workshop - come to an intro session, fun and interactive! Then will lead into an optional course.
- Status update from activity leaders present at meeting – hot lunch, Blessing & Burdens etc.
- Open floor – opportunity for attendees to raise concerns/ideas

Craig Whitehead - Palliser Update given through Mr. Thiesen

-the organization review is posted on their website.

-The Board met on January 10 - there is an updated with how they're moving forward.

-Approved a Film Fest in conjunction with Lethbridge Anniversary.

-expressed regret for not attending but is away on vacation.

**Hot Dog needs volunteers** - possibly schedule field trips for different days? Also, put in the Parent email that it is only a two hour commitment; let parents know that this may be canceled if we don't have enough volunteers. "Give thanks for the lunch you don't have to make on Wednesday's by volunteering". Also, let parents know what the money is going for. Maybe Grade 6 students could do a video - see what our volunteers do and what the money goes towards!

**Staff Appreciation** - Sandy will be reaching out to her other planners as to when their next activities will happen. (eg. the week ending March 10th). Ideas for planning are welcome!

Parking Lot - Signs have made a bit of a difference by the front offices. The drive-through lot needs to remain 1 way. In the lower parking lot, by the stairs - drop and go, not hug and kiss, grab a backpack and go! Could there be signs placed in the lower lot and visual barriers so parents know where they can and cannot stop. Parents, if you have hockey/skating gear - you need to park and not take too long in the drop off line.

## Tracking List:

TASK	DESCRIPTION	OWNER	DUE DATE
Lego Showcase	Secure organizers and set date. This will go up on SignUp genius for help.	Leona/Maureen	suggested date of April 28 or May 5
Garbage Can Installation Request	Research option of installing garbage cans outside near elementary playgrounds	Heather	March 2017
Playground Benches Installation Request	Research option of installing benches near elementary playgrounds	Heather	March 2017
Volunteer Enhancement Effort	Implement teacher-driven plans to make volunteer experience more impactful for volunteers, teachers and students	Mike	?