

**Lord Kitchener Elementary School
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
7:00 pm - Library**

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and call meeting to order** -- 7:07 pm Joyce Cheung
2. **Special Presentation on EarthBites -- Suzanne Fielden, founder of EarthBites**

Presentation slides available upon request

- Food marketing targets kids -- processed food purchases have doubled in 70 years to 60% of family food purchases; childhood obesity levels in Canada have tripled since 1979
- VSB Sustainability -- almost all VSB schools currently have an educational garden
- EarthBites offers year round, school partnership programs in the Vancouver area
- All of EarthBites workshops are linked back to the new and evolved BC curriculum
- Currently partner with 6 elementary schools, 1 secondary school (Prince of Wales)
- Working with Lord Kitchener since 2014 (growing, harvesting, selling food through markets...5 classes/year)
- Gardening with students: encourages imaginative and flexible thinking, reduces anxiety and depression in children, increase opportunities for positive social interaction...
- Fees include: Krista, Britte and Rebecca visit school once a week; plan and hold 4 seasonal markets; maintenance of school garden, seeds and soil for the garden; groceries to create snacks with students; end of year celebration feast...
- Overview of 5 modules; develop five sessions in line with big ideas from the evolved curriculum (direct links incl physical and health education, aboriginal studies...)
- Outcomes and benefits: incl hands-on learning, teachers are provided with resources, school garden is utilized as an outdoor classroom

EarthBites asks that Lord Kitchener PAC consider supporting the EarthBites program in 2019/2020 contingent upon the staff continuing to support the program.

- EarthBites will tailor the program to the school and request of teachers and administrators (eg. Wilfred Laurier emphasizes planting more than nutrition, Trafalgar integrates EarthBites a lot with buddy classes--partnering between teachers)
3. **Approval of January meeting minutes** -- approved by consent
 4. **Reports and updates:**

a) **Administrators' Report - Debra Nothstein and Angela Stewart**

- Conferences are coming up on March 6 and 7. Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm both days. Online appointment scheduling will be opened tomorrow. Parents will book appointments directly on the website. The link and instructions will be emailed to families.
- A new school website will be live beginning March 1st. Be sure to visit and see the updated look.
- Staff vacancies – the daytime Building Engineer and evening Assistant Building Engineer positions are currently filled temporarily. Tony has been posted in the daytime position until Spring Break. Wilmar is working evenings this week.
- Events:
 - Heritage Fair tomorrow – Divisions 9 and 10
 - VSU Trustee, Oliver Hanson, visiting LKTR tomorrow morning
 - Project Opera Performance March 9 @ 11 am – Division 9 and 10
 - DancePI3y school wide dance program – February 21st to 28th
 - Annual Lockdown Drill
- Responses to questions:
 - Measles – no reported cases within VSU

b) **Outdoor Classroom - Krista Levesque**

- As soon as the snow melts, plan to hold a work party day (order in soil and fill up beds) during the week in early March
- Kids are really enjoying seed butter

Krista put forward MOTION for Lord Kitchener PAC to support the EarthBites program in 2019 - 2020 contingent upon Lord Kitchener staff asking that the program continue. The budget will remain the same as 2018 - 2019.

Seconded by Julie Aselstine

Vote on EarthBites program: Krista Levesque abstained, all else in favour, no opposition votes

c) **Inspiration Awards - Julia Bonnett**

- The Inspiration awards include: 1 \$500 award for a grade 12 Kitchener alumnus + 3 Thunderbird grade 7 graduates who split the remaining \$500 (\$100 gift cards each with the rest covering school fees)
- Julia is hoping that we may increase the allocation to the awards as most of the school fees are not covered with the \$70 per child

Julia put forward MOTION to increase the Inspiration Award budget by \$100 for Thunderbird School recipients to \$600

Seconded by Chris Shorthouse

Vote on increasing the Inspiration Awards by \$100: All in favour--no abstaining, no opposing votes

d) **Communications / Website - Joyce Cheung for Caroline**

- The website is now up to date.
- Parents can fill out the online survey that is now live on the site.

5. Other Business

- Chris Shorthouse: Any strategies to reach parents whose first language isn't English?
- We have 2 translators
- Word of mouth - best way to get involved firstly is to come to the meetings

6. Childminding provided by Callista Lee

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16

7. Meeting adjourned 8:27 pm