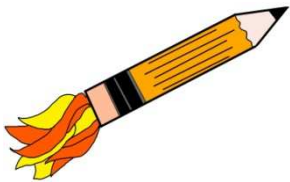




Steve MacLean Public School Council Newsletter

Issue 282: February 2012

Welcome to the latest SMPS Council Newsletter, the best way to stay connected and informed.



A Note from the Chair **Krista Matthews, SMPS Chair**

At our January meeting Mme Poirier provided a great deal of valuable information about the school budget as well as the construction of the addition to the school, which is slated to begin in the spring. I think rubber boots will be the new “in” thing at SMPS in the spring because it is going to be messy! As we have done in years past, we also approved a motion to subsidize the cost of Scientists in the School for our primary classes in the amount of \$3.50 per child. Details of the meeting are recorded in the minutes and posted on the SMPS Council website.

Our second annual Direct Ask fundraiser is underway and we’re hoping that it will be as successful as the Direct Ask fundraiser last year. With last year’s funds, we were able to purchase 3 “Ladibug” document cameras and 3 projectors for teachers and students to use in the classrooms. This year, the focus is on fundraising to purchase additional levelled readers for our younger students (you know, those take home books to encourage the students to read every night) and in-class science and technology books for our older students.

We have recently struck a little sub-committee of council to organize support to lobby for a public high school in Riverside South. The OCDSB’s capital priority list is set until 2015 and, currently, there is no provision in the capital priority list for a high school here. Given the ever-increasing number of students at SMPS, sending them all to South Carleton or Merivale, the high schools for which SMPS is a feeder school, is not the best option for our kids. The way we see it, a high school in Riverside South could have a catchment including Findlay Creek and Chapman Mills (once the bridge is complete), thereby alleviating some of the pressure on the already over-crowded Longfield’s Davidson HS in Barrhaven. We’ve had positive feedback from Lisa MacLeod, MPP Nepean Carleton, and Mark Fisher, our Trustee, both of whom have committed to advocating for a public high school in Riverside South. Our little committee is very much in its infancy and we’d welcome any feedback, assistance, or ideas that you may have regarding how best to advocate for a public high school much closer to home!

See you at our next meeting, which will be on February 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Krista
chair@smpscouncil.org

Council Members:

Chair.....Krista Matthews
Vice Chair.....Mark Marshall
Treasurer.....Alison Viitaniemi
Secretary.....Anke Adams
Volunteer Coordinator.....Sarah Connor-Gorber
Fundraising Coordinator.....Vacant
Communication Coordinator.....Sue Sbardella
Webmaster.....Trevor Holt
OCASC Representative.....Jared Langdon
Pizza Ladies.....Rebecca Montanero, Karen Gardiner, Christine Pratley-Moore
Special Events.....Caroline Aldis-Macko
Cupcakes.....Donna Corning and Heather Davidson



Our Great Group of Volunteers

Volunteers are such a big part of our Steve Maclean Parent Council. We are always on the lookout for parents who can spare time around the many activities at our school. If you can afford some time, we would be happy to show you the ropes. Please visit the Steve Maclean Parent Council website <http://www.smpscouncil.org/> register for an account and let us know what days you are available to help us out. We will refer to the online database and contact you directly. Any questions please write: volunteer@smpscouncil.org. Many thanks.

Sarah Connor Gorber



Valentine's Day Dance

Get ready to open up your hearts for the SMPS Valentine Dance Friday February 10th!

Doors open on at 6:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Please wear your Valentine attire or red and white!

Popcorn and water will be served.

It will be a lot of fun!

(Adults must accompany their children)

Caroline Aldis-Macko



Pizza News

Our pizza program is going strong well into the school year. Wednesday is one of the most popular days of the school week, and we know why! A reminder, should you like to make changes to an existing pizza order or start a new one you can do so at any time by visiting the SMPS Council website.

We are still looking for a new Pizza Coordinator for next September. If you are interested in a rewarding and fun volunteer position with the School Council please email the Pizza Ladies at pizza@smpscouncil.org. You can do it by yourself or share the position with friends. Remember you would be running the School Council's largest fundraiser and providing a hot lunch to hundreds of hungry Steve MacLean children each week!

Thank you to all of our wonderful student volunteers! We look forward to seeing your smiling and helpful faces each week at the counter picking up the pizza for delivery! We could not run the program without your amazing help!

The Pizza Ladies

Christine, Karen and Rebecca



OCASC Representative

Kids that eat healthy do better in school, and they are likely to maintain the good habits throughout their lives. At the most recent OCASC meeting, representatives from Ottawa Public Health and the Champlain Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Network gave an excellent presentation on the importance of good nutrition for growing, learning kids. Let's all remember that children choose from among the food options that WE provide. If those choices include fatty, salty, sugary foods, kids will go for them every time. If all the choices are healthy ones, the kids will make a healthy choice.

Don't miss out on these upcoming events:

Teens & Technology

February 15, 2012 at 7 pm at Adult High School

A free information session for parents about sexting, cyber bullying, safety, and mental health. No registration required.

Facebook Ate My Daughter...and My Son Won't Stop Playing Call of Duty

February 16, 2012 at 7 pm at Woodroffe High School auditorium

OCDSB Presents Leonard Sax. You can check out his site at www.leonardsax.com. His books include "Why Gender Matters", "Boys Adrift", and "Girls on the Edge". This session is free, and you don't need to register.

Children 9-13: The In-Between Years

April 16, 2012 at 7 pm at Adult High School

CHEO in Partnership with the OCDSB - Free information session for parents held at the Adult High School. The sessions provide trusted information and access to local experts, each covering both physical and mental health topics for specific age groups. For more information or to register, visit www.cheo.on.ca/cheoconnects.

Jared Langdon



Lunch Lady Program

We hope you have had an opportunity to look into the great Lunch Lady program. As in previous years every Friday Lunch Lady will be supplying us with hot, healthy options from their extensive menu. All food is nut-free and meets the recently introduced provincial regulations on nutritional food at schools. The menu is flexible featuring many different kid friendly meals from pastas, to salads, wraps and even sushi sometimes. Each few months a new menu is sent home from school with the most current menu options. If you have any questions, The Lunch Lady can be contacted at [613-667-9000](tel:613-667-9000) or by email at jonathanm@thelunchlady.ca. Thank you.

Anita Ayoub

The Steve MacLean Public School Advisory Council is an advisory body made up of parents, teachers, and staff of Steve MacLean Public School as well as members of the community that the school serves. The council meets seven times a year on the third Wednesday of September, October, November, January, February, April, and May. Council meetings take place at 7:00 pm in the school library, all are welcome. Attending council meetings is a great way to learn about the challenges and successes of our school, adding your ideas to make our school a great place to learn and grow.

Next Council Meeting: February 15, 2012 at 7 pm