

**St. Charles Catholic School**  
**PAC Meeting (via Zoom call)**  
**February 24, 2021**

**Start time: 7:08 PM**

**Call to order:**

Lee-Anne Brewer (PAC Chair)

**Prayer:**

Lee-Anne Brewer

**Review of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Minutes passed and adopted by Nadia De Luca and Anna Mae Clark

**Volunteer Hours and Fundraising**

An email was disbursed to all parents last week from the board chair, Robyn Powell, addressing concerns on volunteer hours. Re-cap:

- At this point, the golf tournament is still scheduled. It is not likely the dinner portion will be allowed. This of course will be based on the guidelines closer to the date.
- Families can ask their home room teachers if they need any help with projects they can take home and complete.
- The school acknowledges this is a difficult time and that there are not currently a lot of volunteer opportunities. It makes it even more difficult as there are restrictions on entering the school. It is difficult to predict if and/or when these guidelines will be updated. The school monitors daily.

Prize donations continue to be accepted for the golf tournament. Please coordinate with the golf coordinator, Andrea Siwak ([andreasiwak@shaw.ca](mailto:andreasiwak@shaw.ca)) or [fundraising@stccs.ca](mailto:fundraising@stccs.ca) (Lee-Anne Brewer and Lesley Paige). Lee-Anne will confirm to all on how and where to drop off any donated prizes.

Donations: \$20 value = 1 volunteer hour (this is an approximate \$ value)

Will there be a reduction in the amount of volunteer hours required per family?

This is still TBD. Everyone on both sides are making reasonable efforts. The school will assess and acknowledge when families are making reasonable efforts to volunteer when they can, given the opportunities that are available. If families are finding it difficult and/or are

concerned the VIP cheque will be cashed, please contact Mrs. Narynski or Robyn Powell. They are assessing on an individual basis and are making best efforts to accommodate all.

Most of the questions on volunteer hours will likely be more clearly addressed and defined at the next scheduled board meeting. It has been requested the board present more concrete volunteer opportunities.

It is challenging to confirm if the school can proceed with scheduled events etc as we are only given three-week windows on approved guidelines.

The date of spring cleanup is still pending but there will be outdoor opportunities to volunteer.

Another upcoming fundraiser is the 50/50 Kinsman/Kin-card Bingo. The coordinator is Alanna Van Buren. Start date is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Draw date is June 27<sup>th</sup>. We are waiting on our code from LGCS. We buy under the STCCS code and these amounts are pooled to the school. This fundraiser is seamless as there is no admin work, no fees, and a lottery license is not required. Kinsman is not taking any percentage this year; therefore, the full amount is split 50% to school and 50% to the winner! Possible volunteer hours: level of promotion via online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, signage on front lawns advertising for the draw, etc

A few raised questions concerning upcoming events and/or fundraising:

- What does the school foresee attendance to be at the golf tournament this year?
- Will there be enough volunteer opportunities at the golf tournament to spread around to families given the current restrictions and the reduced events for the day?
- Would the school consider reducing or pro-rating the number of required volunteer hours for ALL families? There are concerns that those that “show up first” will be able to fulfill their hours, but this could leave little or no opportunities for others.
- Can any volunteer opportunities be brought outside? For example, uniform pickup. Can tables be set up outside (like what was done for chocolate pickup)?

Suggestions:

- Let the families of the younger students know donations are considered volunteer hours. They may not be aware of this opportunity.
- A letter/email listing available volunteer opportunities given current guidelines
- Continually update this volunteer list

## **Upcoming Events**

Will there be a science fair this year?

Yes, for the middle years students. Mr. Bourquin will provide all details to the students.

The bookfair will likely be online again. It is scheduled for the week of March 22 – 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Staff Appreciation Lunch hosted by the Kinders is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> (to coincide with the online Parent/Teacher Interviews).

Unfortunately, Shrove Tuesday was cancelled.

Grade Eight Farewell!!

This event is hosted by the Grade 7's and 8's. Tess Bernacki would like to have a committee to plan some COVID friendly events. The farewell committee is usually comprised of Mrs. N, the Grade 8 homeroom teachers, the and Grade 7 & 8 parent reps.

These were general discussions on how past farewell celebrations were planned (in non-pandemic times) and what was done last year (in an online learning environment). It is likely it will be somewhere in between for this year (crossing fingers)! At this point, given the uncertainty on guidelines, perhaps plan for code red (strictest) guidelines and anything added and/or allowed would be a bonus!

Recommendations for the Grade Eight Farewell festivities:

- Outdoor events
- Preparing farewell packages for each student. This could also be counted as volunteer hours!
- Group get togethers. This could be difficult (ie. how are the groups selected)? It could potentially be cumbersome to group and separate kids to who they “want” to be with.
- Perhaps the groupings can be on a Grade 8B and Grade 8V basis
- Have a celebration at a wide-open space? For example, a park. This would be guideline dependent
- Zoom farewell celebration and award ceremony
- A tented event in the school yard. Areas to consider: guidelines, cost, weather, time to assemble/disassemble, etc

## **General**

The school has filed the paperwork with the city for the drop-off/pick-up area construction. We are waiting on the city to commence the work.

The Academy Kids Daycare (AKD) area is being renovated for future school space.

There has been some confusion on what is acceptable to bring in for class treats (ie: student birthday celebrations, holidays, etc). A few parents would like clarification on the definition of “individually wrapped” items.

What is important to note is the school needs to follow the guidelines and safety protocols established by the Province and the respective healthcare professionals. The school can send out public information links to the families for their review.

Please contact the office to clarify whether or not the treat or snack is within these safety guidelines and on how it can be safely handed out in class.

At the moment, the school is still allowing individually wrapped treats and snacks. Please keep in mind, this could potentially change in the future.

### **New business**

A few would like clarification on acceptable color and style of hair accessories.

It was recommended to have more mental health classes and/or activities for the students. For example, more color days, fun days, spirit days...anything to lift the students mood, general attitude and outlook....something for them to look forward to and be excited about.

Suggestions:

- To participate in a “color” day, donate a loonie or a toonie, with all proceeds going to mental health for kids.
- Have “Reason to Smile” days
- Grade 8’s plan something for the younger students – mentorship!
- More “Drop Everything and \_\_\_\_\_” days; like the flashlight and reading days in February. Idea’s could be: stand up and dance, teacher DJ contests over the announcements, school wide classroom contests, bring back “Principal for the Day”,

There is a planned zoom event March 10<sup>th</sup> on mental health issues for kids. Information will continue to be sent out in the weekly emails. The older students also have enrichment classes, do mental health checks, have quiet time, participate in discussions and write in journals, all concerning mental health.

The Next PAC meeting will be set at a later date, likely via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

Stay Safe and Healthy!!!