**Minutes from Montroyal Elementary MPAC Meeting Thursday November 20, 2014**

Meeting started at 7:06pm in the library.

1. Jana welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and noted there were a number of cancellations for this meeting.
2. Jana noted the small Agenda change.
3. Motion to approve October 16th, 2014 minutes by Janet Carswell, seconded by Rebecca Rutter, all in favour. Accepted as presented.
4. Jana started off with some thank you’s for all that has happened so far this school year.
   1. A big thank you to the BINGO Team and to Jane Ferry who organized the ice cream. There was no official head count, but there were approximately 200+ people in attendance. Hope that BINGO Night continues.
   2. iWalk Week – Thank you to Cath Blythe , Janet Carswell, Cindy Hudson, the grade 7 volunteers and police/fire.
   3. Thank you to Carol Sartor for getting WOW set up with Yvonne Smith.
   4. Would like to formally thank the committee responsible for the library renovations. Susanna McPhail has spearheaded this – working with the District and Mrs. Hill. Thank you to the parent volunteers dealing with the “beautification” of the library.
   5. Jana gave apologies for staff appreciation treats being missed in October. She gave thanks to Carolyn Warner who has volunteered to help out. The monthly treat for the staff is now back.
   6. Thank you to Grade 7 parent coordinators – Cath Blythe, Mel Mollison, Deb Anderson. The grade 7’s have started their fundraising with concession at BINGO Night and Purdy’s. Tree chipping is planned for January 4th. Will need someone to open the gate on that day.
   7. Since last meeting, have launched the Montroyal Cheque Drive. Pleased to say that after ten days, have reached 43% of the $9000 goal. Thank you to families who have donated already and look forward to seeing some more donations in the coming weeks.
5. **Nominations for Elections** 
   1. **DPAC Representative:** Nomination for **Hardish Garson**, won by acclamation.
   2. **School Planning Council:** Nomination for **Catherine Cantas**, won by acclamation. Nomination for **Corey Kinney**, won by acclamation. Nomination for **Sandy Milone**, won by acclamation. Nomination for **Janet Carswell**, won by acclamation.
6. **Staff Member - Mrs. Nadine Balen**

Mrs. Tracey Toddintroduced Mrs. Nadine Balen,one of Montroyal’s Kindergarten teachers. Mrs. Balen mentioned how nice it was for her to see so many familiar faces at the meeting. She expressed how much she and Mrs. Janet Scott appreciate the support they receive. She mentioned how much she loves her Smart Board and how it has changed her students’ learning. Mrs. Balen also expressed how thankful she is for the iPads. She noted that it has been amazing how all students can work at their own level with the iPad. Mrs. Balen commented that the Kindergarten children are currently working on a “Children around the World” unit. They have brought in flags of countries that have special meaning for their family. They are making connections between themselves and children from other countries. The students are now used to their full day routine. Mrs. Balen, again, gave her thanks to the parent community. Mrs. Todd followed with her report.

1. **Principal and Vice Principal Report**
   1. **First Term Conferences** seemed to go well.
   2. **iWalk –** Mrs. Todd mentioned she had never seen it before and was amazed.
   3. **Grade 6 Peer Leaders** are trained and on the playground.There has been some trouble with the Grade 3’s in the uppers. Plan to move some of the peer leaders to the uppers.
   4. Had Kindness Assembly on November 13th – World Kindness Day.
   5. **Halloween –** went well.
   6. **Grade 6 Outdoor School** – was during Halloween week. It was a wet, but fun week.
   7. **Remembrance Day Assembly –** Thank you to Miss Bergstrand and student leaders. Mrs. Todd noted the great audience behaviour.
   8. **Guided Reading** has started.Some parent volunteers have been trained and are helping out with this program.
   9. **Intramural basketball** is being run by Mr. Hagg, Mr. Emanouilidis, and Mr. Thomson. **Ms. Hudson** noted that they are trying to organize Triple Ball for the Grade 6’s and 7’s
      1. **Parent Question:** What is Triple Ball? **Answer (Miss Hudson):** It is like volleyball, but have to hit the ball three times.
   10. **Speaker for Mindful Kindness**, a nurse with Vancouver Coastal Health, will be doing workshops for the Grade 6’s and Grade 7’s.
   11. **Report Cards** go home on December 12th.
   12. **Problem solving playground issues -** There has been a great deal of conflict in the playground. If anyone has a problem, should go directly to the person involved and try to have a dialogue. In the past, boys would solve problems physically. Cannot do that, but some are not well enough prepared to deal with conflict. Should start by saying, “Stop! I don’t like that.” If that is not working, go get help. If you are an adult with a problem and not getting resolution, come to Mrs. Todd or Miss Hudson. Mrs. Todd asked that parents please let them know about problems. Try to get children to talk about a problem when it happens. So, if you have a problem, let’s deal with it right now. Mrs. Todd and Miss Hudson want to help. Mrs. Todd mentioned she will do a thing with the students regarding tattling. Need to teach the difference between tattling and asking for help when you need it. Kids get confused about what is tattling. Want an open community to make it the best for the kids.
   13. **Parent Comment:** Thank you. The playground was broken until you came and now it is fixed. **Mrs. Todd:** The wooden playground has been power washed and more fill is coming.
   14. **Parent Question:** Will we get last year’s report cards with this year’s report cards? **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** No, but you request at the office. Cindy, Diane or myself can get them. Cindy mentioned that teachers are hopeful the parents will get the report cards.
   15. **Leaps and Bounds –** (program for Grades 3 to 7 extra math support) has been purchased and teachers have it. Will do a “lunch and learn” for the program.
   16. **Parent Question:** Because you are so good with action, will the hedges be trimmed? **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** Have asked for the hedges and trees to be trimmed. **Parent Question:** Is that property school or District? **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** Let’s have a look. Janet Carswell noted that a dad that lives across the street cleans garbage out of the hedges.
2. **Chair – Jana Madill**  - turn over to director and committee reports. At the meetings this year, the executive plans to just deal with the top items for the next few weeks. Monthly director reports are posted on the website after the meetings. If anyone does not like this format, please let us know. Jana turned over to Scott Taylor for monthly financials.
   1. **Treasurers Shannon Harris and Scott Taylor**:
      1. **Please refer to “Budget Update as of October 31, 2014” posted under YTD Financials for this meeting date.**

Scott noted there are a couple of financial reports posted on the website. For YTD, not a lot has happened. Got gaming commission monies and raised $300 at Welcome Back Bingo Night. Janet Carswell clarified, not short by gaming commission, just less student enrolment than thought. Scott noted the website, directory and guided reading expenses.

* + 1. **Please refer to “Statement of Reserves and Surplus as of October 31, 2014” posted under YTD Financials for this meeting date.**

Scott noted would like to move $1200 from prior year’s unallocated surplus to technology reserve. This money would go toward the purchase of a new projector for Mrs. Power’s classroom.

* + 1. Jana **–** last month voted to move $40000 from surplus to technology fund to revamp computer lab hardware. The plan is for 24 new desktops (full set for primary) and 6 MacBook laptops (provide some mobility). Overall plan does not include replacement of printers. Have learned that projectors put in place before Smart Boards have a limited lifespan. Therefore, in the future, will need to replace more. Ready to put computer lab work order in tomorrow.
    2. **Janet –** About the lab, will the new computers have disk drives? **Answer (Miss Hudson):** No. **Jana -** Do we need to consider that? **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** They are not expensive, so they can come out of school budget for the teachers.
    3. **Jana –** Motion to approve move of $1200 from surplus to technology fund: Janet Carswell , seconded by Catherine Cantas. All in favour.

1. **Committee Reports:**
   1. **Christmas Market: Yvette Scott**
      1. Yvette mentioned that this is her fourth year organizing this event. There are 32 tables, 14 of which are PAC fundraising tables (i.e. baking, re-gifting etc.). The cost is $25 per table and $12.50 for half a table.
      2. Kids selling at the market need written permission from their teacher and parent.
      3. Yvette noted there will be a notice coming out from class reps.
      4. Have sold 16.5 tables, so have 1.5 tables left to sell. If any teachers want a table, it is free.
      5. Grade 7’s will be selling popcorn in the lobby.
      6. Janet asked if Yvette has a lot of volunteers. Yvette responded that she is always open to volunteers.
      7. Jana asked if Yvette had received a lot of donations. Yvette replied yes and that she would be accepting donations all the way up to market day.
      8. Jana noted greenery table is always very popular. She also said the wreath orders were a bit low.
      9. Maura running baked goods table and any donations to be brought the day of. Prefer baked goods to be individually wrapped. Limited candy tables this year, but lots of great crafts.
      10. **Parent Question:** Is the man that makes the buttons going to be there? **Answer: Yvette:** Not certain about that. However, the grandmother that makes the stuffies has two tables this year.
   2. **Giving Tree: Yvonne Smith**
      1. Jana noted that, unfortunately, Yvonne had to send her regrets this evening. For the last few years, our chair Jana has participated in this event, which has supported Windsor Elementary. In last year’s survey regarding the Giving Tree, there was an overwhelming desire to move our support to the North Shore. Jana has let Windsor know that we will not be supporting them this year and they were extremely gracious and thankful for the three years we helped them. This year, the Giving Tree will support Family Services of the North Shore – Christmas Bureau. They will be making hampers and the focus of Montroyal’s donations will be elementary school aged children. The Christmas Tree will go up in the foyer and be decorated with “colour me” tags with the items needed. The tags can come back attached to the gift. Giving Tree will kick off on Christmas Market day and donation bins will be there through final night of Rudolph. Note: Friday November 28th is the last night for activities in the gym as will be setting up for the Christmas Play. The following is copied from an e-mail from Janet Quenneville, Christmas Bureau Manager for the Family Services of the North Shore.

The requests we’ve received for young girls includes the following:

·         Frozen – any clothing, toys, products related to Frozen are very high on the list

·         Monster High dolls, products

·         Art and crafts supplies

·         Sheets (twin)

·         Winter boots, jackets, mittens, hats

·         Rain jackets

·         Back packs

 Gift suggestions for boys include the following:

·         Winter boots, jackets, mittens or gloves

·         Rain jackets

·         Hoodies

·         Lego

·         Clothes

·         EB Games

·         Sheets (twin)

·         Back packs

For younger children:

·         Age appropriate books

·         Warm winter clothing

·         Rain jackets & Muddy buddies

·         Mittens

·         Educational toys

·         Diapers

1. **MPAC chair – Jana Madill**
   1. Jana explained that this year’s MPAC Executive has planned to have a theme for the MPAC meetings. The plan is to put the “themed” content toward the end of the Agenda to allow speakers the flexibility of showing up later and not sitting through the entire meeting. Tonight’s theme is Safety at School. January’s theme will be Mindful Kindness. Jesse Miller is coming up. Carol Sartor will talk about the SRA and Cath Blythe about Saleema Noon. Unfortunately Block Watch had to cancel this evening. Will post brochure on website for anyone interested.
      1. **Jesse Miller** –**Jana Madill:** Jana explained that he had been to Montroyal last year and was well received. He will be returning on November 25 to speak with the intermediate students in the afternoon and the parents in the evening. For the student session, there will be two groups of students, the 4/5’s and the 6/7’s. He talks about how to be safe on-line and makes his content relevant for each age group. “Social media websites represent a modern day cross between a yearbook and a barbershop.” Permission forms went home with all students, but only relevant for the intermediates. Jana asked if there was any flexibility for attending the talk if a student forgot to return his/her form. **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** It is possible for a child to get permission over the phone. Jana reminded the parent community that Jesse Miller is a PAC sponsored speaker. If we get a lot of response, may have to move things to the gym.
      2. **Carol:** Are we having childcare for this? **Answer (Jana):** Will talk to Grade 7 parents. Sorry, haven’t done anything with regards to childcare. Was figuring it would be a smaller group. Mrs. Todd commented that the parents could also learn a lot from Jesse Miller.
      3. **Saleema Noon – Cath Blythe:** Cath has been working with Saleema Noon for a couple of years. Cath read an except from Saleema’s website, to give parents a perspective of her “matter of fact” approach to teaching body science and the importance of doing so. Cath said that, as much as it can be an uncomfortable topic, we have fun doing what we are doing. If parents and educators don’t teach children about their bodies, someone else will. Saleema is coming to our school in May and, as always, will have a parent information session. Jana thanked Cath. For more information about Saleema, visit her website at <http://www.saleemanoon.com/>
      4. **SRA – Carol Sartor: Please refer to the SRA report posted under this meeting date.** Most of the content of Carol’s talk can be found in her report. Below are just some of the highlights. Carol explained that members of North Shore Safe Routes to School joined together as a collaborative voice.
         * This year, in Grade 5, everyone has a role in traffic safety.
         * Carol has contacted HASTE and ordered six signs FREE OF CHARGE. There will be three community signs and three school signs. She will be working with the District to get them posted.
         * Won a $30,000 grant to be shared among our local family of schools. Will try and get more durable WOW cards. Thank you to all the parents that participated in WOW.
         * **Parent Question:** Can you ask for a crosswalk between Montroyal and Prospect? **Answer (Carol):** Crosswalks! Carol showed the parent community a map of proposed crosswalks for the neighbourhood.
         * **Janet Comment:** About a year ago, in a survey, you asked parents where they would want crosswalks. **Reply (Carol):** Yes, only received about 8 replies.
         * **Parent Question:** Can see the need for a crosswalk at Prospect, but there is no sidewalk there. Will sidewalks be put in? **Answer (Carol):** Have looked into sidewalks, but very difficult to get put in.
         * **Parent Comment:** This crosswalk you are proposing that crosses Montroyal – saw a woman hit a parked car at Montroyal and Belvedere. I’m not sure a crosswalk is enough. **Answer (Carol):** Want to start with crosswalks and then move to stop signs. On Tuesday November 25, SRA counterpart will be at a meeting and Montroyal crosswalks are on the Agenda.
         * District of North Vancouver has contracted HASTE to do work around schools.
         * We’re doing our part to make it safer. Need infrastructure in place.
         * Provincial Government is doing a 10-year traffic plan. Please fill out the survey before December 12th and give them your young family perspective. Carol suggests putting in words like “support safe routes to school.”
         * **Parent Question:** There are students cycling down the sidewalk on Sonora after school. Is it safe for them to be on the sidewalk? What can we do about it? **Answer (Carol):** All bike traffic should be on the road. **Answer (Jana):** We could ask students to walk their bikes until they get past Sonora Crescent. **Answer (Mrs. Todd):** We could put it in the newsletter. It is the same with scooters. The students just need to be reminded. Jana – maybe the traffic parent volunteer could remind students? Mrs. Todd – So, want to walk bikes between drop- off/pick-up zone and Sonora Crescent.
         * Carol asked that parents feel free to come and see her with suggestions, comments, or concerns. Alternatively, they could e-mail. Her address is in the directory.
      5. Jana asked the parents if there were any other questions.
      6. **Cath** **–** The Grade 7’s are not going to do concessions at the Christmas Play because it is such a short play. The Grade 7’s will do their thing at the Christmas Market. Also, Mrs. Hill is looking for help next week.
      7. **Shannon Question:** Speaking of the Grade 7’s, is the bench here from last year’s Grade 7 class? **Answer (Judith Brain):** It should be installed in the next couple of weeks. The school district is installing it.
      8. Jana closed by saying she hopes everyone will enjoy the holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

In attendance:

Mrs. Todd, Miss Hudson, Mrs. Balen, Jana Madill, Janette Ferber, Scott Taylor, Shannon Harris, Rebecca Rutter, Janet Carswell, Carol Sartor, Jen Roberts, Yvette Scott, Cath Blythe, Catherine Cantas, Michaela Donnelly, Judith Brain, Sandy Milone, Hema Patel, Hardish Garson, Megan Enns

Next meeting: January 15, 2015