

Blossom Park School Council
School and School Council's Updates
March 24 – April 27

1. School Council's Update:

• **PRO Grant:**

- We received the speaker/topic lists on March 28th. Registration for the sessions was open the same day.
- Members were asked to send their feedback by email.
- A form was filled out and sent to OCDSB; the form included our preferred dates and the top three topic options, all of which are Scientists in School Family Science Nights.
- We received an email from OCDSB confirming that our Family Science Night is on **Wednesday June 1st**. The selected topic is ***Science Meets Art***.
- Promotion for the night, registration of families, and preparation of science kits are being planned for.
- Sawmill Creek School Council also picked Scientists in School. Their event will take place on May 27th. Their topic is *Spread Your Wings*. They will contact us if they have any extra spots, and we will do the same.

• **OCDSB Financial Audit:**

- As mentioned in our previous meeting, OCDSB had informed us that KPMG would like to review the School Council's financial records for the period 1 September 2021 - 25 March 2022 as part of the work they conduct when auditing the District's consolidated financial statements.
- All the requested documents (receipts, accounting book, bank statements) were dropped off at the OCDSB's Finance Department at 133 Greenbank Road on April 7th. A questionnaire was completed and emailed to the Board. A link to all our agendas and minutes was also included in the email.
- The records will be safeguarded and available for pick up at the conclusion of the review. We have not heard back from the Board yet.

- In our previous meeting, we brought up the issue of not receiving the paper bank statements for the past three months. After contacting the bank, we learnt that the reason why statements were not delivered to school was due to lack of activity. A stamped record of our account balance for the past months was obtained from the bank to be included in the financial audit papers. March bank statement has been delivered to school as a new deposit has been made.

- **Charitable Impact Donation Amount:**

- The Charitable Impact cheque for the amount of \$281.88 has been deposited in our account.
- Our balance as of April 27th is \$4330.44

- **\$500 Grant:**

- The \$500 Parent Involvement Funding grant has been received from school in the form of a cheque. The cheque will be deposited in the coming two days.
- We still have the \$500 grant from last year. We can use either or both grants this year, or wait until next school year.

- **Initiatives for Library Book Returns and Donations:**

- We contacted our librarian, Denise Natyshak, with a suggested drafted plan for the initiatives discussed in our meeting earlier.
- Denise and Caroline shared some thoughts about how to proceed with the council's help:

- **Library Book Return Initiative:**

- The initiative aims at spreading awareness and conveying information to both parents and students about the importance of taking care of borrowed library books and returning them to the school library.

- Since the students are currently using library books in the school only, the initiative will be postponed until next school year, once pre-pandemic routines are resumed.

- **Book Drive Initiative:**

- In this initiative, our families will be asked to donate gently used books to our school library.

We are planning to start a small-scale graphic novel book drive over a period of two weeks, and then assess the process. The book drive will take place **May 10 – May 24**.

- **Sawmill Creek Fundraiser Support:**

- Sawmill Creek School Council are having a metal and e-waste fundraiser and are asking for our support by spreading the word in our community.
- Scrap metal and e-waste are to be dropped off **May 13, 14 & 15** in the bins located in their school's parking lot.
- A poster that they have shared with us will be translated to Arabic before sending it out to both families and staff in our school community.

- **Web Page Log-In Issue Resolved:**

A web page log-in issue that we have been experiencing since November has been resolved. Now, we can go back to using our account's email and password to log in to our School Council's web page. For the past five months, we have been using a temporary user name and password provided by the OCDSB due to an error on the site.

2. School's Update:

- partnering with YOSICO to run a boys' group (grade 4-8) once per week;
 - Girls on the Run started - grade 4/5 girls;
 - continuing to manage staff absence - closing classes and/or combining groups as needed;
 - re-introduction of mandatory masks at school is going well;
 - intramurals for intermediate students is going well - basketball is currently running;
 - prepping for upcoming EQAO testing - May 9-13;
 - we welcome two new staff - Kristina Bromley behind Jessica Niefer (gr 4/5 ETFI) and Lauren Kremer in the afternoon behind LeeAnn Sow (gr 2);
 - currently preparing staffing for 2022-23 school year.
- Suggested date for our next meeting is Wednesday May 18th at 5 PM. Date is to be confirmed by email.