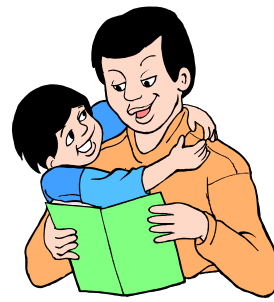


James Douglas Parent Advisory Meeting

April 19, 2004



Parents - Darren Shong, Joyce Spencer, Emma Breurkens, Lyn Jones, LaNein Harrison, Astrid Visscher, Sue Watkins, Carolyn Morgan-Chan, Simon Szeto

Staff - Pam Biela, Barbara Claridge, Marie-Helene Humphries, Isabel Somerville

Chairperson's Report, Astrid Visscher

- Feedback from the grade 7's internet safety game, "Mirror Image" and video was very positive. The students took it seriously and were very responsive.
- On March 29 over 100 parents met to discuss the proposed modified week. Results will be counted on Monday, May 3.

Treasurer's Report, Simon Szeto

- Over \$5000 was raised from the raffle.
- The missing \$3180 from gaming funds has been received.
- The PAC budget for 2004/05 is being developed now.
- We give four scholarships to former Douglas students for university or college, 2 to Churchill and 2 to David Thompson. The high schools choose the recipients based on merit. Astrid will inquire whether the high schools would include a student who is pursuing athletics.
- Upcoming fundraisers: Flower Baskets May 4; Canadathon May 10; Big Brothers (Annex) May 14; Carnival June 12; Hot lunches, Snack Shack and Noodles ongoing

Douglas Website

- Sue will work on a link from the VSB site to the Douglas website.
- Please check www.douglas.aucontraire.net for more info on fundraisers, dates and more.

Principal's Report, Barbara Claridge

- Grade 7 students are getting ready for their trips, Outdoor School (Camp Jubilee) or the Quebec trip.
- Prizes for the Canadathon include an MP3 player and a bike and lots of smaller prizes.
- Total of \$12,592.54 has been made with fundraising so far. More fundraisers to come, as mentioned above.
- 150 Douglas students are participating in a Festival of Dance at Van Tech on April 30.
- Grades 3 and 5 will be participating in a media workshop, acting and recording plays that they are studying.
- On April 29 Professional Development day, teachers will be looking at math curriculum and teaching methods.

Vice-Principal, Pam Biela

- Pam noted that students seem to be problem-solving better, and that there is better language, more empathy and self-control among the students in general. It seems that focussing on Social Responsibility may be helping.
- Students will be working on 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' for an evening performance at the end of May, with scenery and music and costumes. All intermediate grades will be included.

Vice-Principal, Marie-Helene Humphries

- A gate has been installed south side, and will soon get a latch.
- The Half Pint Basketball presentation about respect (also at the Main School) was very well-received.
- Grade 3's will have an author from Quebec work with them.
- Registration for kindergarten is full with 49 students, and grade 1 is full too. Kindergarten filled up on the first day of registration and there is waiting list of over 35.
- Jim Cumming has volunteered enthusiastically for 13 years at Douglas and will be moving on to other work. Thank-you and best wishes, Jim!
- The playground committee will be meeting April 20.
- There was a question about the time allowed for eating lunch. 15 minutes is given for the children to eat lunch and then they need to go outside (or to centres if it's raining) because of limited supervision. Students are welcome to continue eating outside.

New Business

- Suggestion to have Victoria Drive designated a School Zone, 30 km/h. Barbara will look into this.
- There is a new fence at the Main School. VSB is trying to make the grounds easier to maintain.
- In 1999 Phase 1 of the Learning Grounds VSB program, Imagination Garden, was completed. It included decorative tiles outside and picnic tables. For Phase 2, VSB will provide a landscaping plan. We can ask garden centres for donations of plants, and involve the students in planting and caring for them.

