

Irwin Memorial Public School
School Council Meeting
Wednesday February 27th 3:15pm

In Attendance:

Jenn Clark-Principal, Emma Platts-Boyle-Chair, Sarah Roberts-Co-Chair, Nicole Bradley-Treasurer, Tamara Wright-Secretary, Kim Reuvekamp, Kim Fairhall, Jen McCague, Dana Sinclair, Laura Vaisanen, Christine Demarco, Mel Maxwell

Report from District School Council Meeting:

Emma attended this meeting that occurs every 3 months; all school councils and admin can attend. The topic included IEP at schools. There was also a breakout session as well that discussed school councils and their feelings on how those meetings and council groups are going. Emma reports a lot of these groups are exhausted with their fundraising agendas and lack of members on their council. Emma was thrilled to report we are the opposite. Emma feels that there is so much positive energy and such success with fundraising at Irwin. She is also happy with all the parents that continue to join and are always welcome to.

Principal's Report:

- Staffing updates: Kim Kruitof has been contracted for the afternoons at Irwin. Wendy Murray is currently on leave and Heather Cleary is filling her position at this point until further notice.
- Mel Maxwell did receive a grant that will be used for improvement of the garden.
- The grad photos are being rearranged from the front foyer area. Shelving will be placed in hallways to display the reframed pictures that have spanned all the years at Irwin.
- Jenn reports that the Makerspace has a new sign that is displayed in the library.
- Program update: Although we have had several snowdays, the primary grades were still able to go skating at the Dwight rink, kindergarten to grade 6 were able to go to Arrowhead for one of the two planned dates and the older students did go skiing at Hidden Valley. The students also participated at the Biathlon and ski races at Arrowhead as well. Cross country skiing is also offered at the school at recess, etc.
- The effective speaking contest for the older students occurred Thursday, February 28th.
- Jamie Honderich brought about 60 skulls to the school Monday March 4th for educational learning.
- Book Fair occurred from March 6-March 8th.
- Report Cards went home Friday February 15th.
- The Ministry of Education is coming to learn with kinderland next month.
- Math fluency continues to be a priority in the School Improvement Plan at Irwin. This is meant to help students and parents better understand math and the learning around it. The school has made a document that explains this in an easy to understand format. The staff have been learning with some outside help to assist everyone involved. Irwin has also made a video that parents can watch that includes all fundamentals that the staff have learned. This will also be available online eventually.
- Jenn discussed that there has been a pattern of unkind behaviour online between students, specifically on personal devices, using various apps. Jenn is inviting parents to partner with the school to help kids be safe online- "It takes a village."

-Irwin has also put out a lot of information accessible to everyone about online safety. This is a topic that can not be discussed enough. These articles include responsible digital citizenship, safe schools, healthy relationships, online safety, cyber bullying, etc.

-Jenn has an online campaign on Facebook informing parents and staff about the various media forums students are using #informedandinvolved

-Pink Shirt Day occurred Wed February 27th. The school had an assembly which passed on messages that kindness matters and how to stand up against bullying.

-In April, Irwin is partnering with the highschool with the help of a grant Jenn received to have the intermediate students to go to the highschool to participate in a series of workshops. These will be created by high school students centered on healthy digital citizenship. The OPP will also come to the school in April to complement these conversations as well. Their discussions will include cyber bullying, risks and legal implications.

Art Night:

Parent engagement night is going to Mon May 9th 5:30pm-7:30pm. Dinner will be provided. This year's theme is art.

"Let the Cat Go" is an art and craft studio in Bracebridge that will provide the interactive stations as other nights have provided previously during these evenings. Artwork that all the students have worked on at school will also be displayed that night as well.

Treasurer Report:

Nicole went over what the beginning balance of the council was and what it currently is. Hot lunches have raised approx \$500.00, Christmas Concert bake sale and raffle raised \$1532.85, Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser made \$438.20. The lights for the stage are all paid for as well.

Hot Lunch:

The next hot lunch will be a Quesadilla with a veggie or fruit side. This will be on Mon April 8th.

Future Fundraising Goals:

The Council discussed previous items suggested for fundraising goals as well as future ones.. Gym equipment, outdoor play equipment, benches/picnic tables were discussed as well as possible spot lights for the stage.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is Thursday April 11th at 3:15pm.