

Golden Ears Elementary School PAC Meeting

Tuesday 24th September 2024 - 6:30PM | Zoom & In Person

- Call to order at 6:32PM
- Attendance: Janet K, Meagan T, Ilsha G, Helen R, Shannon A, Hanna Nicoll, Jenny M, Sarah C, Jane T, Jodi C, Jen D, Nicole N. *Via zoom: Caitlin A, Grace, Jen T, Jasmine, Mursal C, Natalie W, Nicole, John*
- June AGM Meeting minutes approved by Jen D & Jenny M
- New VP Kristen Paul very excited to be here and looking forward to getting to know everyone
- NEW: Staff members Jodi Calderwood & Regis Montgomery will act as teacher representatives in PAC meetings for 2024-2025. They are also parents at the school and will act as an additional line of communication between PAC and staff at GEE
- Staff feedback from last year: very happy with PACs hard work!
- Fundraising this year: PAC to focus on more event based fundraisers vs buying (Meridian GC, Purdy's, Kernels, etc) to encourage more community building within the school community. Each event will also outline what funds will go towards for full transparency with families of GEE.
- Funds raised from events will go towards the school's wish list items. Staff suggestions include:
 - More sand and **quality** toys for sandbox, more folding chairs for events held in gym (ie musical), AAC board, additional bike racks or moving the bike rack to the front of the school, more stage boxes, sex-ed class via Inside Nature, score board (approved from 2023-2024 needs to be actioned), Gaga Ball, field trip funds, donations to breakfast club, increased donation amount for classroom funds, book cart for primary teachers.

Top 3 requests from above list:

1. Field trip money
2. Increased classroom funds
3. AAC Board

- Outdoor sensory track as discussed in June 2024: no quote provided, GEE will follow up and pursue other providers if no response
- Projected Events for 2024-2025
 - Oct - Halloween Dance & paint night
 - Nov - Fall Artisan Market
 - Dec - pancake breakfast & treat shop
 - Jan - Family movie night
 - Feb - Family paint night
 - Mar - None
 - Apr - Bingo Night
 - May - Board game night
 - Jun - None

- Events possibly being added: doormat painting, trivia night, pub night. Suggestions (and help planning/facilitating) are always welcomed!
- Volunteers are always needed! PAC would love to create a mass email list or WhatsApp group to be able to reach parents/guardians who have expressed interest in volunteering on short notice when more hands are needed at certain events.
ACTION: PAC to create a more detailed explanation and schedule for roles needing to be filled for volunteers (as specific as possible) so volunteers can know what to expect
- PAC Constitution & Bylaws - PAC is inviting parents/guardians interested in reviewing and editing PAC C&B to join the C&B committee. C&Bs will be finalized by January 2025 and voted in.
- Fall Fair September 2025 - Jen Daigneau to take charge in creating a committee to host GEE's first fall fair - many volunteers will be needed! If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to PAC.
- Finances: 2023/24 financial year ended in July. \$18,000 was raised for the 2023-2024 school year and \$9000 has been distributed to the school. From gaming grant (separate from \$18,000), sensory materials provided to Jana Banning & EA team, new gym equipment for school was purchased, new planters for gardening club, yearbooks for Grade 7, pizza lunch on fun day, KONA Ice treats for staff and students
- Gaming Grant 2024-2025 application has been submitted. Application status shows "processed", should know status by end of Sept or beginning of Oct.
- PAC will be donating \$125 per division (29 total) for classroom funds. Additional top-ups can be discussed throughout the year as we decide what our fundraising focus will be for this year.
- LB to look into how PAC can assist students in need - possible school supply drive?
- Hot Lunch Update: Hot lunch menus will be simplified this year - having less options helps staff distribute meals quicker with less mix ups.
- PAC is very appreciative of families who have made donations for students who cannot otherwise afford hot lunch. Cost to cover these meals has far exceeded donations, which cuts into profits from hot lunch.
ACTION: Jenny to meet with LB to discuss how this process can be changed for future hot lunch sessions. Jenny will also reach out to vendors to see if they can provide meals free of charge for students in need.
- DPAC Update: first meeting has not happened yet, update will come October
- Principal's report:
 - One new division has been added, currently at approximately 640 students.

- New building announced - possibly going where the blue playground currently is. Building will have 8 classrooms, 6 of which will replace the portables.
 - Terry Fox Run fundraising goal of \$1000 has been met - Toonies for Terry was a huge success!
 - Truth & Reconciliation week - teaching students to celebrate the indigenous culture
 - LB has suggested books to read for additional T&R learning
 - Possibility of starting a GEE book club for Parents/guardians
 - Website is continually being updated with all of this year's pertinent information; PAC tab can be added for all PAC info
 - LB would like to create a parent handbook in collaboration with staff and PAC members
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- **Next meeting October 22 @ 8:30AM in staff room**

 - Meeting adjourned 8:26PM