

Parent Council News

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Welcome to our Parent Council Newsletter

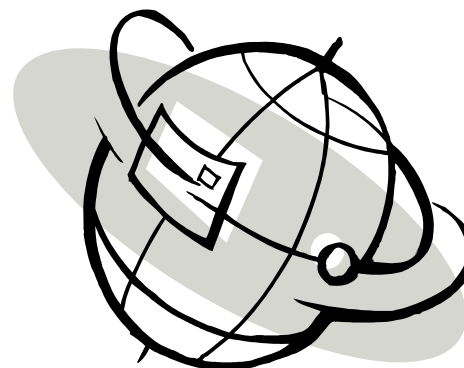
Our focus this year as council is to improve parent involvement through effective communication.

Having an involved parent community ultimately enhances the student's experience.

Being an involved parent takes many shapes. It's not just about being able to volunteer for field trips, fundraising, or attending meetings. It can be done as simply as being aware and up to date on the activities at the school.

We, as fellow parents, appreciate how much work it is to keep families running smoothly, and recognize that everyone's time is valuable. Parent Council will endeavor to present you with as many opportunities as we can to be involved with the school.

We have had two very



productive parent council meetings this year, and look forward to our next one on **November 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm** in the staff room.

This newsletter will provide information and we hope to have all documents, agendas, and minutes from meetings available to everyone on the school website quickly.

In addition to keeping information current on the school website we have also initiated a parent council facebook page as a forum for positive discussions on things that involve the school.

Visit the school website, and look for Queen Mary Parent Council on facebook. We look forward to working with you this year.

High School Closing – Accommodation Review

The vote to close PCVS by the school board after their accommodation review last year affects our Queen Mary community as the main feeder school for the high school. The following

information is presented to provide pertinent information for our parents. This is meant to inform parents and doesn't constitute an opinion. Parent Council has had presentations by

concerned Queen Mary and PCVS parents, received information at the Regional Parent Council Meeting, and been informed by the school board. Summaries follow.

Queen Mary/PCVS Parent View

The community's fight to keep PCVS open is ongoing.

PCVS School Council, with the PCVS Foundation, backed by City Council are filing a request with the Ministry of Education for a formal review of the school closure process (The ARC process).

Once filed, this review process may take a month or so for the Ministry to reply.

Currently PCVS is at full capacity, and has the highest

percentage of students who walk to school. (69%).

Queen Mary students moving to high school will have to take buses to Adam Scott, and the Board has not presented the estimates of these additional costs.

If you think that keeping a downtown, historical, inclusive school open is important to you, your family and your neighbourhood, you can get involved in many ways including donations to the foundation to help cover

legal costs.

A summary of facts from PCVS parents can be found at:

www.peterboroughneedspcvs.com and

pcvscornerstone.blogspot.com

“Supreme Court Nominee Michael J Moldaver is a Queen Mary and PCVS graduate”

School Board Information

The Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board is moving forward assuming their vote to close PCVS will stand.

They are advising Queen Mary parents that graduating grade 8 students will be attending Adam Scott Collegiate next fall.

There is a scheduled visit for all grade 8 students to Adam Scott on November

2nd. Presentations for the International Baccalaureate (IB) program will be on November 9th, and the Integrated Arts (IA) Program on November 24th. IB programs will be held at Kenner Collegiate, and the IA programs will move to TASS.

KPRDSB is holding implementation meetings with students, parents and

staff of the affected high schools.

Trustees attending the Regional Council Meeting stated: “they are not trying to be disrespectful of parents”*, but after a mourning period they need to move on and that “the review process is unlikely to overturn the board’s decision”**

*Angela Lloyd

**Diane LLoyd

Options for Parents to obtain more information:

Information regarding the accommodation review can be found at www.KPRDSB.com

Information regarding the review, or how you can help can be found by emailing PCVS School

Chair: Margaret Marchen. pcvscouncil@hotmail.ca

Parent Information night for New Registrants for St. Peter's Secondary School is January 18th, 2012.

Grade 8 students and parents can also obtain information about their

options from their teachers, and school principal Susan Matthews at susan_matthews@kprdsb.ca

QM Breakfast Program Update

The Queen Mary Breakfast Program is up and running. The new coordinators are Angie Stalteri, Naomi Stock, and Katie Dick.

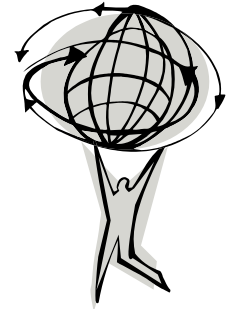
One of the highlights of the program this fall has been the fantastic local apples that have been purchased supporting local grower Deerbay Farms run by Hayla and Doug Evans in Buckhorn.

The kids have been enjoying the variety of foods provided every day.

Katie, Angie and Naomi would like to thank all of the volunteers, both bakers and those who help in the kitchen for their continued support of the program. Their hard work and dedication keep the program running strong.

The program can always use more volunteers. If

you have time to bake, volunteer occasionally in the kitchen, or have a donation, please contact Naomi Stock at naomi.stock@gmail.com or for more information about the program in general please contact Angie Stalteri at bluesmama88@yahoo.ca



QM Garden Update

The harvest from the new vegetable gardens was great this year and provided a great learning opportunity for our students. We thank Allison Clarke for planning the garden and for providing curriculum links to the school for teachers to utilize the garden as a teaching opportunity.

We are currently looking for a Volunteer to take over the garden duties at

Queen Mary. This position involves managing volunteers, planning the budget, and helping with the maintenance of the gardens on the QM property. It also involves updating parent council on the garden committee.

More urgently, we need volunteers for SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 from 1-4pm to put the snow fence up around our

award winning Butterfly Garden (by the shade structure). Please come even if it is only for an hour. Family members can play in the school yard. We need Dads in particular, as height and brute strength is required! If you can make it to help us on Sunday, please email council co-chair Jane Weir at jweir15@cogeco.ca

QM Extracurricular Activities

There are lots of intramural and extracurricular activities going on this year at Queen Mary. Please check the extracurricular tab on the school website for schedules, forms and other information.

Two new things this year at Queen Mary are the **new Library hours from 3:30-4:00** for students to complete work and get help.

Also new this fall starting in November is **Yoga for Kids Starting Tuesdays**

on November 8th for 5\$ per class. Forms and information are on the school website. Or contact Jennifer Chambers at nchambers@sympatico.ca or Tamara Pereira 705-743-9077

“Yoga is a fun way for children to develop important skills in a supportive, non competitive environment.”

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Engaging Parents, Engaging
Students

Most parents agree that kids's backpacks are not always the most reliable way to get information about the school and the activities. Great ways to stay involved include reading your child's progress reports, agendas, school newsletters and school website. This is in addition to taking the time to ask your child about his or her school and social life.

There are times when a question or concern is above and beyond the normal scope of day to day goings on at the school. Here are a few suggestions to help get your questions or concerns answered:

- Your Child's Teacher – should always be your first stop. Their day to day contact with your children gives them the best ability to identify problems and their potential source. Messages left with the school secretary, or emails send directly to the teachers' email are a great way to get the process started. Use your child's teacher's Firstname_lastname@kprdsb.ca as the address for teachers at QM
- If you don't feel that your concern is being addressed, the next step is to contact the school principal, or vice principal. Both Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Padgett-Goddard are available by phone, or email, or by visiting the office. Please check with the school secretary Sharon Macguillivray for when would be a good time to see them.
- Although most issues get resolved at the school level, if you feel your concerns remain unresolved, you should then contact the school superintendant.

We're on the Web!
Queenmary.kprdsb.ca

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this newsletter, or have suggestions for our next newsletter, please feel free to contact us.

If there is a topic you would like addressed at the next Parent Council, please don't hesitate to contact Jane or Chantal.

Chantal VanParys Jane Weir
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