

**Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Parent Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011**

Guest Speaker – Ms Wanda McConnell, Senior Communications Coordinator (RETSD)

Wanda gave a presentation on Social Networking and the Adolescent. The presentation was very interesting and the stats on Social Networking, specifically Facebook were somewhat surprising but looking at our own kids, right on track. Wanda had a handout with some helpful websites to learn more about Facebook which will be attached to the minutes.

Reports

Staff and Music – B. McConaghy

- Junior High tours completed in February with the help of Student Council
- Pep Rally – February 15 (Slot 3)
- Post Secondary Open house Tours February 22nd and 23rd at Red River, University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba
- Divisional Peer Tutoring/Student Mentor Conference – February 25th at Melrose Community Centre – 100 students to attend
- Grad Photos – February 14 – 25
- The Grade 11 IB Great Escape Event – February 28 – expecting 200 students
- Prodigy asked to perform at the Canada Day Celebrations in Ottawa
- Upcoming March Events:
- Post Secondary Information Stations – March 10th U of M, U of W, RR and Apprentice Manitoba
- Grad Fashion Show – March 16
- Brandon Jazz Festival – March 17 – 18
- Evening Jazz Café – March 22

Administration and Alumni- V. Laurie

- ski trip to Fernie – Feb. 22 – 27
- Registration Process – Feb 22 – March 18; Registration Day March 10
- Grade 10 IB Parent Meeting 7:00 pm February 24th
- PD Day – Friday, March 4th
- Interim Report Cards – Wednesday, March 16th
- Parent/Student/Teacher conferences Thursday, March 24th 5:00 – 9:00 pm and Friday, March 25th – 1:00 – 3:15 pm
- France/Spain trip – March 25th – April 3rd

- Football Banquet – March 17th
- Synervoice calls to parents well received
- 60th Anniversary set for Friday, June 29th and Saturday, June 30th, 2012. Friday there will be a concert and social. Saturday will have walk through school, CAS project to set up Gym B with walk through the decades from 1952 – 2012, food stations and kids carnival.

New Business

- Staff/Teacher Appreciation Breakfast to be brought in my Ms Laurie on the PD day, March 4th
- RETSD Website to be revamped. Parents are encouraged to check out the website and send any comments to Ms Laurie before March 3rd
- MAPC conference March 6 and 7 if anyone would like to attend
- The subject of PAC Constitutions came up and Ms Laurie said we had one. Ms Laurie and Ms McConaghy will see if it can be located.

Next meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd. Topic will be Gender Preference and Learning to be presented by Ms Laurie. Ms Laurie to scan and attach an article regarding the same.

Helpful websites to learn more about Facebook

1. This American website has lots of good information specifically about Facebook. It explains a lot about how Facebook works and includes some really important advice for parents who want to keep their kids safe while on Facebook.

<http://www.common sense media.org/facebook-parents>

2. The site – mashable.com - calls itself a “social media guide.” This article, “Facebook Privacy – Ten Settings Every User Needs to Know,” is a really important one to read to understand privacy settings on Facebook.

<http://mashable.com/2011/02/07/facebook-privacy-guide/#>

3. Media-awareness.ca is a Canadian site. It focuses on media and digital literacy and is somewhat more general in nature. It has a section for parents.

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/index.cfm>

4. This site was created by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and is being promoted by Family Services and Consumer Affairs Minister Gord Mackintosh. It talks specifically about teen texting and the dos and don'ts of texting. It's geared to middle years students. It has an excellent dictionary of texting abbreviations... FWIW! (for what it's worth.)

<http://www.texted.ca/app/en/>

5. This is where I found the stats from the Roiworld “Teens and Social Networks Study.”

<http://www.cleancutmedia.com/social-media/experts-say-gen-y-will-not-grow-out-of-social-networking>

6. This site calls itself the “unofficial Facebook resource.” It has a wealth of information – everything you ever wanted to know about Facebook but were afraid to ask...

<http://www.allfacebook.com/>

7. This is Canada's national tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children. It's run by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

<http://www.cybertip.ca/app/en/>

Tips for talking to teens about Facebook

www.common sense media.org/facebook-parents

- Talk to your kids about controlling their information. Encourage them to be selective about what they post. But it's not just what they post that can get away from them. Their activities on Facebook, including the applications they use and games they play, can be viewed by others.
- Use privacy settings. Facebook's default settings tend to keep information public until a user makes it private (although Facebook is a little stricter with minors' accounts). Review the settings with your teen, and make sure they are set to "Friends Only."
- Disable location services. [Facebook's Places feature](#) lets users post their location. Teens can also "tag" their friends' location when they're together. These features can be —and should be—disabled in the privacy settings of teens' accounts.
- Set rules about what's appropriate to post. No sexy photos, no drinking photos, no photos of them doing something that could hurt them in the future. They also need to be thoughtful about their status updates, wall posts, and comments on friends' posts. Remind them that once they post something, it's out of their hands.
- Encourage teens to self-reflect before they self-reveal. Teens are very much in the moment and are likely to post something they didn't really mean. Work with them on curbing that impulse. Teach them to ask themselves why they're posting something, who will be able to read it, and whether it be misunderstood or used against them later.
- Watch out for ads. There are tons of ads on Facebook, and most major companies have profile pages. Marketers actively use Facebook to [target advertising to your teen](#).
- Create your own page. The best way to learn the ins and outs of Facebook is to create your own page. A great way to start talking to your teens about their Facebook experience is to ask them to help you create your own page.
- "Friend" younger teens. If your kids are in middle school, it may be a sound policy to know what they're posting, since teens that age don't necessarily understand that they're creating a digital footprint that will long outlast the passions of the moment.
- Talk to your high school-aged teens about [whether or not](#) they're comfortable letting you "friend" them. Many will be. If you are your teen's friend, don't fill her page with comments and don't "friend" her friends. As it is, simply having parents is mortifying enough for some teens. Your kids' friends don't need evidence of your existence.
- Choose your battles. You will see the good, the bad, and the truly unfathomable. If you don't want your teens to unfriend you, don't ask them about every transgression. Keep it general.
- Be a model friend. Remember that they can see what you post, too. Model good behavior for your teens and keep your own digital footprint clean.