

**Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Parent Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 27th, 2011**

Meeting began with introductions. Ms Laurie asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves and if they had a new student starting in Grade 10, asked them to give some information on how their child found the first few weeks of school. A lot of talk about scheduling issues, but with 1225 students it is to be expected. Scheduling has improved greatly over the last couple of years and the Administration does their best to place the kids in requested classes wherever possible.

Colleen then explained what the Parent Council was, what the meetings entailed and that we are not a fundraising committee.

Colleen explained that we are members of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils. This means that we get a newsletter from them, membership is paid for by the Division, there is an Annual General Meeting we can attend and they have a General Conference every year that anyone is welcome to attend.

Colleen also brought forward information regarding the Manitoba Celebration of Excellence in teaching or school administration. You can go to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/excellence/ if you would like more information.

A letter was received from the Winnipeg Police Service with information regarding presentations topics that they will come and present at the schools.

Reports

Staff and Music – B. McConaghy

- welcome to Grade 10 parents
- September 7th only grade 10's attended in the morning with a tour and BBQ
- September 9th was the Club Fair where kids could go to learn about the different clubs they might like to join at Miles Macdonnell
- Student Leadership Group is a larger group of about 35 – 40 students. Among them they will nominate co-chairs. These kids were Grade 10 and 11 kids who signed up last year. This years Grade 10's will be able to sign up in October if they are interested. This group went on a Retreat to Camp Arnes on September 13th and 14th
- MMC Open House was September 15th Alumni cooked hotdogs for the event
- September 22nd was the Fall honors Evening and was very well attended

- September 26th was the Grad Parent Meeting and the parents decided to again do a Safe Grad with a dinner and dance at a hotel and an after party elsewhere with parents in charge of everything. Troy McLellan will Chair the committee.
- September 28th was the Grade 12 IB Information Meeting with scholarship information, University applications etc.
- September 29th – 6:30 pm Italy Tour 2013 meeting
- There was a meeting for the Scotland Music Tour and final commitments need to be made by September 30th.
- 7 Habits workshop will be held October 14th and 20th
- Senior Fashion Show will be held on October 19th with the Good Neighbors Senior Centre using seniors as models and clothes being provided by Nyyard Fashions

Administration and Alumni- V. Laurie

- as of start up of school, population of the school this year is 1225 students which includes 37 International Education Students
- hockey, football, cross country and volleyball teams are all in session and tryouts. Pep rally, September 28th and the football team bought cowbells.
- Interim report cards (no % grades - use codes and comments) will be given on Wed. Oct. 19. There will be mid-term reports and end of term reports. 2012 – 2013 school year will see all report cards the same province wide.
- Professional Development days for October will be the 7th and 21st (SAG)
- Parent/Student/Teacher Thursday, Oct. 27th in the evening and the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 28th
- Priorities for 2011 – 2012 are Technology, Assessment and School Wide Positive Culture
- Technology – 3 new smart boards in science, math and social science immersion; static technology in the library; mobile technology/laptops can move around the school inside and outside
- Assessment will be the subject of the Professional Development day on Friday, October 7th
- School Wide Positive Culture – making the school a safe and comfortable place to be. There will be a survey coming out to students on this subject to get input from the students regarding their comments on the Culture of the school.
- New Programs this year: Career Connect Program, History through Cinema (Grade 12), English Literature with an emphasis on Creative Writing (Grade 11) and Computer Science with a focus on Gaming (Grade 11)
- 60th Anniversary Reunion – Friday, June 22nd and Saturday, June 23rd. Friday there will be concerts and a Wine and Cheese. Saturday, Pancake Breakfast, Alumni volleyball game, CAS will work on Decade Memory Walk 1952 – 2012, Tea, Kids Fair, Beer gardens in the afternoon at Melrose Community Centre and the launch of the Legacy Wall.
- Trips 2011 - 2012: October – Theory of Knowledge trip to New York. March – Music trip to Scotland and Science trip to Costa Rica. April/May Vimy Ridge Trip with Kildonan East School geared towards researching the Second World War

- Trips 2012 – 2013: March 2013 – Italy – Artistic/Reflective Tour and 3 more possible trips TBA

Suggested Educational Topics for this years PAC meetings:

- Learning Styles
- Teenage Brain
- Transition to University and Scholarship Information
- Career Cruising
- Career Connect
- Technology Night
- Resilience in Kids – MATC/Mental Health Issues
- Learning Disabilities

Ms Laurie will research to find speakers for each topic.

Dr. Martin Brokenleg will be presenting at Chief Peguis Junior High Theatre (1400 Rothesay Street) on Thursday, January 26th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. He will be Speaking on effective parenting styles and examine the way today’s parents and school staff can help kids grow to be their absolute best. We have decided to invite all to attend that speaking engagement as our PAC meeting for the month of January. We will need to RSVP to Elaine Werbeniuk at 667-7130 ext 2213 or ewerbeniuk@retsd.mb.ca by January 19th. We can take that information at the November meeting and RSVP for our PAC.

The meeting dates for the year will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 25th
 Tuesday, November 22nd
 Thursday, January 26th (Dr. Martin Brokenleg)
 Tuesday, February 28th
 Tuesday, March 20th
 Tuesday, April 24th
 Tuesday, May 29th

New Business

Paula Wiebe noted that the Miles Macdonnell Craft Sale will be held on Saturday, December 3rd. This is a huge, very successful event to raise money for all music activities at Miles Macdonnell. They are always in need of volunteer parents for the day of the event. Please contact Brenda McConaghy if you can help out.

Paula also spoke of a 2 ½ day leadership conference that she attended with her daughter in Alberta. The conference was attended by all staff and students to learn about leadership. She said it was a fabulous event especially because of the fact that it included everyone. It always seems that those kids who are already leaders are the kids that attend these events. A conference like this, that is all inclusive, can help those kids

that may not realize that they are leaders, come out of their shells and give them that drive to do good in their community and abroad. Ms Laurie said that Miles Macdonnell will be involved in some way with the Kielburger Brothers and WE day, soon to be announced. (WE Day is being held in Winnipeg on November 23rd, 2011)

It was great to see so many new faces and hear about how the new grade 10 kids are doing at school this year. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 25th.** Hope everyone attends and brings a friend!! Here's to another fabulous school year at Miles Macdonnell Collegiate!