

## **Malvern Home and School Meeting - April 5, 2011**

Present: Line Pinard, Claudine Tyrell, Leslie Rose, Casey Fleming, Vicky Tsorlinis, Diane Wyman, Emily McRae (recorder)

- Welcome & introduction of guests
  - Diane opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting
  
- Students Council & MSAA Report
  - Claudine Tyrell provided the following update
  - Winter Thaw Week is coming up, with different activities planned at lunch to celebrate the end of winter.
  - MSAA held the Sport-a-thon last week, which went quite well. 97 students participated, and raised \$1,000 for Right to Play and \$1,000 for the Athletic Banquet. Thanks to Ms Gage and the MSAA it was well supervised and organized.
  - Fund raising for Japan earth quake – We have raised over \$500 so far through Toonie Tuesdays and sale of paper cranes made by the Japanese Club.
  - Friday June 24 is the formal at the Meridian King Edward Hotel.
  
- Approval of March Minutes
  - Minutes were approved. Moved by Leslie Rose, seconded by Casey Fleming.
  
- Treasurer's Report
  - Balance is \$5,834.97. One Cheque outstanding for tent for \$1,372.12.
  - The correspondence for our GIC for the War Memorial Fund is going to the wrong address, which is being corrected. The GIC & Malvern Bank account are now linked together. GIC balance is \$1,680.27. We can take funds out at any time, or wait until it matures in December. We discussed the need to transfer these funds to the Red & Black.
  - One outstanding invoice for plaques for scholarships from Malvern is to be recovered from the Home & School funds.
  
- Principals Report
  - Both Vice Principals are preparing for tomorrow's review.
  - Thank you to Casey for producing tickets for Boardwalk Ball.
  - Thank you to Ginetta Peters, who has offered to update the Grade 9 handbook.
  - Thank you to Vicky Tsorlinis for her work on Boardwalk Ball baskets.
  - School Climate initiative – Further to what we discussed last month, work is underway. This is now called "High School – Your Unofficial Guide". Trinity Theatre is coming in to meet with selected Grade 9 and 10 students to prepare presentation for Grade 8 feeder schools to address fears students face as they move into high school. They will meet with parents

for input on April 13 at 4pm. A blast email will be distributed to communicate this meeting.

- Next month, we will discuss a plan to have parent presence at school and in the neighborhood during the first week of school in September. Peer leaders will also be very visible around the school and Grade 9's will be released from school at 3pm rather than 3:15pm for the first week.
- Every year we ask parents to review the Code of Conduct. Both the school and the TDSB Code are posted on the website under "About Us" and then "Policies". Any comments or feedback are welcome – please send to the Principal or any of the Vice Principals before the end of the month so that an updated Code of Conduct can be released in May. A blast email will be released to request parent participation.
- Physical Plant – Pool change rooms have been updated and it looks very nice and clean. Rubber on stairs has been upgraded on several of the stairwells.
- The Onward Malvern Foundation meeting was cancelled in March. Leslie provided an update. We will be issuing receipts for donations to the Silent Auction for the Boardwalk Ball. Tax Receipts for last year's Silent Auction are still outstanding, Diane will follow-up.
- Statue – The restorer feels that the majority of repairs will be completed over the summer. We expect to have funds for a phase 2, which would be beautification of the area around the statue.
- April 13 is National Pink Day. Ms Pinard has issued a challenge to the staff, anyone who can out-pink her will win a prize. We were the first school in Ontario to hold a Pink Day.
- Students will be surveyed on safety in school between May 2 and 12 via a computer based tool.
- Staffing update – We will have 2 additional staff for next year. One for e-learning and one for volume for a total of 58.5 teachers. One retirement has been announced, Ms Kee, our longest standing teacher at Malvern.
- On March 31, 291 Grade 10 students did their Literacy Test, which went quite well thanks to the dedicated teachers who managed this. We will have our results by end of year. Next is Grade 9 Math test on June 2 and 3.
- As of September 1, new school food and beverage policies come into effect, promoting healthy eating in schools. Vending machines can only sell non-caffeinated, non-sugar drinks. Rules govern what can be sold based on fats & sugars contained. We can only have 10 exemption dates, and the policy does not apply to free foods, food brought from home or purchased outside, or what is purchased on trips, non-school related events, and fund raising done off-campus.
- Upcoming dates
  - Tomorrow – district review by group of superintendents and principals to assess effectiveness of school strategies. They will talk to students, and produce a report within 10 days about potential improvements.
  - April 7 – Sounds of Toronto at Massey Hall.

- April 14 – Pink Day
    - April 13 to 16 – Romeo & Juliet Drama production
    - April 18 to 22 – Earth Week, different activities every day
    - April 21 – Battle of the Bands
    - April 21 – MADD assembly for all students. Peer leaders will do debrief with Grade 9's on drinking responsibly.
    - April 28 – Student Vote, with tie-in to the elections.
    - May 4 – Music Night
    - May 5 & 6 - Fashion Show
    - Girls Rugby team going to Montreal and Kingston (weekend including May 10)
    - August 30 – TDSB at CNE day – all students in free, special events for TDSB teachers & students
  - As it is near the end of year, the students are busy with summatives and exams. After May 16, there should be no more class trips and limited athletic events. Guidance is working closely with students who are failing to provide additional support and ensure they have the minimum mark for summer school (35%) and ensuring pre-requisites for next year selections are met. Every day, the math department has resources available for extra help.
  - It was suggested that communication is provided to Grade 9 parents about what summatives are and the requirement to ensure high attendance during the last few months.
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) – Claudine Tyrell
    - We have a new SHSM specialization called Non-Profit Specialist, to add to our existing SHSM for Environment.
    - The advantages for SHSM include future careers; opportunity to make connections and network with post-secondary institutions. It includes industry specific co-op experience in Grade 11 & 12, and recognized certification and training in service excellence. A Red Seal designation appears on their diploma.
    - Student must complete a package of 9 specific courses; and acquire job experience and industry certification. They can obtain the co-op credits through summer work. If you're interested please see Ms Tyrell in guidance, who has established partnerships with Goodwill, MS Society, Humber College, and York University to support the SHSM program.
  - Parent Seminar – Teen Tango Feedback
    - Leslie provided an update on seminar done by Michelle Keeley in March. We had about 60 people and the presentation will be posted on the website.
  - Boardwalk Ball update – to be held on June 3 at Bluffers Marina
    - Vicky provided an update. Venue & food are established. Remaining key items are donations for Silent Auction and Dutch Auction. Last year we had far more donations than this year, so we continue to need promotion

and participation from parents. We are looking for volunteers who will solicit corporate donations from businesses in the neighborhood. A letter can be provided upon request.

- A blast email requesting donations will be released shortly, as well as a “Mark your calendar” notice to encourage participation.
- Several parents have offered to make desserts to supplement what was offered last year. A request will be made to the venue to allow this.
  
- New / Other Business
  - Going Solo book is available for \$20. It’s a great book for young adults that are first leaving home, and the Home & School earns a small profit on books sold.
  - Glen Ames is doing several parent talks. On March 23 Karen Horsman spoke on The Exploding Digital World, and provided a list of resources for parents. She especially recommends The Good Teen by Richard Lerner. The next speaker is Dr. Anthony Wolf on April 20, with a presentation titled “Get Out of my life but first could you drive me and Cheryl to the mall”.
  - Parents Reaching Out Grant (\$1000) is an annual program to increase parent involvement and support student achievement and well being. We have been successful in getting grants in the last 2 years. Last year we used funds to create a panel including a police officer, an outreach worker and a social worker to discuss helping your teens make good decisions about drug and alcohol use with Malvern parents. This year we are offering coaching sessions for at risk teens & their families. Applications for next school year are due in June, and we now need a champion to develop a program and complete the application. Typically funds are released in October, with spending through the school year and survey / results sent back to the school board by the start of the following year.
  - Laura asked about the Nelson Publishing initiative. She works for Nelson and asked if Nelson could host a feedback session with the students here at Malvern. Laura was directed to contact Ms Santos.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.