

Malvern Home & School Meeting November 2, 2010

Present: Line Pinard, Claudine Tyrell, Virginia Dawe, Fiona McIntyre, Fermer Santos, Leslie Rose, Vicky Tsorlinis, Diane Wyman, Emily McRae (recorder)

Welcome

Leslie called the meeting to order. She introduced the Executive including our two new Vice-Chairpersons, Diane Wyman and Casey Fleming (who was absent). Welcome!

Student Council report provided by Duncan Tooley, President of the Student Council:

In September, held frosh week for Grade 9, which was a big success, helped them to get used to Malvern. Held activities every day of week, and got great feedback.

In October, held Halloween fashion show in cafeteria, anyone with a costume could participate. There were prizes, and lots of Grade 9 participation

On November 10th council will hold a contest to “win a date with student council”.

Raffle tickets will be sold for 50 cents, allowing students to enter to win a date with their selected council rep, complete with a special lunch in the cafeteria. Funds will go to future events.

Malvern on the Move initiative: Student council will sell custom designed t-shirts, which was a big success last year. Logo contest will run from Nov 12th to 26th, after which a winning logo will be selected, a mock-up produced and orders taken for shirts to be delivered before Christmas. All profits will go towards a charity to be selected. Last year’s price was \$15. It was suggested that they sell them on parent/teacher night.

3rd annual Equity Conference ‘ Changing Consciousness Through Your Community & the World’ update provided by Fiona McIntyre

Focus was originally on social justice, but has been expanded to include environmental, health and safe school issues that affect the lives of Malvern students & the wider community. The agenda is based on student requests and has been expanded to include the whole school. On Nov 23rd, the program will kickoff with an assembly to explain the format and allow student leaders to explain what the equity focus groups are doing, plus guest speakers,. On 24th, 25th and 26th, breakout sessions will occur after 1st period, with other periods shortened to accommodate. There are 30 confirmed workshops per day with topics including anti-violence & bullying prevention, poverty, homophobia, healthy relationships, racism, mental health, body image, hazing, social cliques and many more. We have many outside groups doing workshops including Planned Parenthood, TDSB, White Ribbon Campaign, Toronto Metro Action Committee for Violence Against Women & Children, and the Canadian Red Cross. Students will be provided with instructions on how to register online in their home forms through the “Key to Learn” system. Please encourage students to sign up early so they get the sessions they want. Signup will start at the end of next week or start of following week. Outside groups will also be offering opportunities for the students to get volunteer work. Very impressive organization & agenda!

Approval of October Minutes

Correction to Leesa Blake's name spelling (sorry Leesa!) Motion to approve the minutes was made by Barb Smelt, seconded by Vicky Tsorlinis.

Treasurers Report

Our bank account has \$9646. We will be issuing two cheques for \$750 each for scholarships, and a third one for a \$100 gift certificate. There will be a cheque going to the Onward Malvern Foundation at their upcoming meeting November 23, which Vicky will report on next month.

Principals Report

1. Thank you to Leslie for taking the day off work to be with us for Red & Black Day. We ran out of pop really early and Leslie was there to help and buy more for us. It was a great success. We had lovely weather, great media coverage in Snap & Beach Metro News, and we were joined by parents and alumni. Over 500 kids marched together from school to Birchmount Stadium. Thanks to Ms Gage, the key organizer, who did a terrific job.
2. Helen & Sharon have done a lot of work to get the commencement reception ready. We are looking forward to next Friday. Our guest speaker is a famous alumni - Matthew Jocelyn.
3. Almost a month since fitness room was flooded. Hoping it will be fixed by next week, which is delayed from our earlier timeline.
4. Looking at installing more wireless routers to take advantage of the larger number of laptops and iPads in school and to allow more classes to use these technologies. At lunch there is often more than 100 kids trying to use the terminals in the library!
5. Onward Malvern Foundation's next meeting is on Nov 23 at 6:30 p.m. One item on the agenda is funding requests. We have a request for \$13,000 for the pool which will be supported by recommendations from the pool captain on how to increase pool income, which is key to keeping pool viable.
6. Have had a pool meeting since last Home & School meeting. We are looking at better ways to advertise the availability of the pool and need help from parents who have web / advertising / PR background who can assist with marketing the pool to the community.
7. Mr Izzo will come to the next meeting to communicate what we've been doing regarding hazing, using some of the excellent feedback and suggestions we received from the community. We are already planning for next year based on this input.
8. Parent teacher interviews – Last year at parent council meeting someone suggested that we do online booking for interviews. We have signed up for a free trial of a school appointments tool. We need a few volunteers to test, so if you are interested, send an email to Nickie Lewis saying you would like to participate in the test. The tool seems straight forward & easy to use. We will release information in a blast email to all parents on how to use it. Parent teacher interviews will be held from 2-4 and 6-8 on Dec 2.
9. Sports team update. Girls' field hockey is going to OFSAA in Ingersoll from Wednesday to Saturday. Boys' senior soccer team is going to city finals for the

first time ever on Thursday against Lawrence Park. Our Cross Country team (30 students) won the Sacred Heart Invitational meet, were regional champions, city champions, and are going to OFSAA on Saturday.

10. Some key dates:

- a. Nov 3 Grade 9 Take our kids to work day
- b. Nov 9 Late start PD for staff
- c. Nov 11 two Remembrance Day assemblies, focus is WW1 and the cenotaph restoration.
- d. Nov 12 early dismissal to setup for commencement. 12:50 dismissal.
- e. Nov 19 Board-wide PD Day.

Vice Principals Report

Diane Sharpe couldn't be here today but next month she will update us on the school improvement plan. This is a living document based on input from parents & staff, aligned with board plan and family of schools plan. This document that explains what our goals are. She will also be sharing the focus items for our professional learning team efforts.

Fermer Santos – Report card guidelines starting this year has been changed to enhance consistency, add more information and facilitate student success. She presented the new Ministry document “Growing Success” that all educators need to follow. Some of the changes are:

- Still using numeric percentages however, for Grade 9 & 10 if they joined the class late, the teacher may use letter I to indicate insufficient information. For 11 & 12 need to give numeric mark.
- Now using course median rather than average.
- Added a new learning skill called Self Regulation.
- Teacher can now indicate if they are requesting an interview.
- There is a tear off sheet for the student's response and for a parent to sign.
- Comments must now include both the student's strengths and next steps for improvement.
- All report cards must be hand-signed by the principal.

We have three reporting cycles, except for half courses which have 2 reports per term (civics & careers, e-learning courses & some Grade 12 math). Students will receive their report cards on Nov 26.

Claudine Tyrell reported on 4 items:

1. Peer leader award – 70 senior students who help grade 9s in their transition are being recognized with an award and will attend the OFSAA conference.
2. Attendance – A student is considered late if he/she is not in the classroom during the national anthem. At 8:55 a.m. hurry up music is played, and at 9a.m. we have a bell & the national anthem. Encourage students to be on time. Students who are consistently late have been getting detentions.
3. Caring Adults - a program where a teacher acts as a role model to a student who is at risk. Sometimes they are identified by their Grade 8 teacher because of attendance, social, academic, or emotional issues. From Grade 10 to 12 assessed

- by school. This is important to the TDSB, since data shows that if student is taken under wing, chances are we will be more successful. Focus last year was on poor attendance. In Grade 9 roughly 60 students in the program, numbers in higher grades varies. If you know of a student who could benefit from this program, please contact the Guidance Department.
4. Malvern Market – recently sent a blast email about this fundraiser for the Girls Rugby team. When the girls’ team started 4 years ago, their goal was to go on a trip as the boys have done every year. The date is Saturday Nov 20, and a table is \$30. Spread the word! Our target is to rent out 40 tables, and the event will include a raffle draw for donated prizes, bake sale, and custom cakes for raffle. It was recommended to re-blast the email, and to advertise in BMN.

EcoSchools Update provided by Virginia Dawe.

Last year, we were awarded platinum certification, and annually we need to recertify. Last week we had our initial audit, and at the end of the year we will have a second one where the auditors will look for improvements. We have some initiatives under way. First, “close the drapes” where we check the classrooms to see if teachers have closed the blinds. Going to audit once a month until May, and teachers will get gift certificate for coffee/tea in cafeteria as an incentive, but they need to bring their own mug! Secondly, we are doing a waste audit, where we study our waste to check for recyclable, compostable, reusable garbage. We have gone from 2 dumpsters to 1 last year. Leesa Blake will concentrate on green initiatives such as the butterfly garden. Heather Farintosh & Virginia Dawe will focus on energy savings including recycling and team building to encourage Grade 9 & 10s to participate in environment club. Ms Dawe’s leadership class organized a food drive “Halloween for Hunger” with donations going to Toronto food bank and the class with most donations won pizza lunch. We have decided to continue this, with the goal being 1080 containers of food, which equals the number of students & staff. One class brought in over 230 items alone. So send in canned goods with kids – we are now at 483.

Commencement Reception Update

Sharon provided an update. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for volunteers but need more people to pickup items that are prepaid. Email Helen at Helencoombe@rogers.com. We will have a coin collector box at the commencement for the war memorial.

Staff Appreciation Night

This is an annual event hosted in early December by the Home & School council at the home of one of the parents. This year, Chris Gilliss and Helen Perry have graciously offered to host. In past parents donated money and had it catered, and we will continue this. Date is December 9, 4pm – 7pm and members of the Home & School council are invited, so if interested in attending, email Leslie Rose by end of November. Usually about 40 to 50 of the 60 staff members participate. We will send out a blast email to request parent funding after commencement is done. Cheques should be made out to Onward Malvern Foundation (updated after the meeting by Leslie Rose) with a memo to say it is for Staff Appreciation. The address is 308 Glen Manor Drive West.

War Memorial Restoration Update

We had discussed a Comedy Night as a fundraiser, but we have deemed it to be too complex an event to organize. We've had several other successful activities and are close to \$15,000 raised already, targeting \$25,000. We will get a matched donation of \$25,000 from veteran's affairs. The President of the Alumni Association will present plans at Remembrance Day assembly and students will be asked to donate loonies. In May, a 50's & 60's class reunion at Balmy Beach Club will solicit funds. CBC was here today filming the monument, interviewing the principal, the vice president of student council, Mr Izzo, and the neighbour who found the hand, so we are getting good coverage. When we know the date for the CBC program, we will blast email. We are the only school getting profiled. In Beach Metro News today, and in October Snap, our war memorial was showcased. We are approaching other foundations to request funding. Goal is to have the restoration finished by Nov 11, 2011.

New / Other Business

1. Parent Question – He heard about an incident involving the senior soccer team but it was not discussed at the last Home & School meeting. Line explained that we can't discuss it because of privacy issues, but she assured us that all students were held accountable, and the Administration at both schools and the police were very involved. It was taken very seriously and the whole team was addressed by Phys Ed staff.
2. Our school is hosting students from Costa Rica from January 20th to February 3rd. We need homes for billeting. If you are interested please call the school.
3. A Parent is interested in an information night for parents of students in Grade 12. Guidance hosts sessions for students - November 30 for university and December 7 for college, but we don't do one for parents. However, we can post the presentation material from the student sessions on the Malvern website.
4. Parent Question - Would we be interested in offering the teachers a gift at the Staff Appreciation Night. The offer was declined.