

PAC Meeting – September 11, 2018 (7pm)

1. Welcome

An attendance sheet was passed around. Introductions of Carolyn, Carrie and Topher, then each parent introduced themselves.

2. CISV Victoria Presentation

Gemma and Orion (CMS students) attended the meeting to fill us in on their summer activities with Children's International Summer Villages (CISV). They attended a camp in Toronto with participants and staff from around the world. The goal of CISV is to foster a globally inclusive attitude in young people and to provide them with positive leadership experiences and opportunities both locally and globally. There is an info night for interested families on September 28th, 2018 at 7pm at St. Aidan's Hall.

3. Principal/Vice Principal's Report

- a. First day of school
Unfortunately, the Esquimalt dancers had to cancel last minute, so the teachers and staff stepped up to perform with traditional drums.
- b. Meet the teachers night – Thursday, Sept 13th 6-7pm
PAC table from 5:30-6:15pm to increase PAC presence. At 6:15 there is an assembly for parents.
- c. Indigenous Families and Friends Night – Thursday, Sept 20th 6pm in the cafeteria
Looking for some PAC funding and involvement. Ray will be talking about programming and indigenous education at CMS. Chinese food and pizza will be on the menu. Good opportunity to increase engagement with indigenous families and the PAC.
- d. Enrolment update
Currently at 599 students, expecting to stabilize at 601 students in 24 divisions. Enrolment has been full since July, so unfortunately some new local families were turned away and sent to Monterey. As spaces open at CMS, these families are being contacted. Classes this year are following government guidelines for smaller class sizes. Strong staff at CMS this year, including new additions.
- e. Portables update
AKA "learning studios". The refurbished building is now in use. The second building will be completed in about 2 weeks. The staff room has been returned to staff use.
- f. Water fountains update
Coming soon.
- g. Student Photos Day – Friday, Sept 14th
- h. Sports update
 - Cross-country now underway with lunchtime practices. Info on after school practices and meets to come soon.
 - Soccer is now underway for a short season (4-5 weeks).
 - Basketball will begin later in the fall with both competitive and recreational teams.

- i. Russell Book Fair – October 10th and 11th with Parent-teacher meetings – volunteers needed. Early dismissal on these days. PT meetings will be available by appointment from 2-5:30pm on the 10th and 2-8pm on the 11th.
- j. Grade 6 Immunizations – October 25th – volunteers needed.
- k. SD61 Archive
An archive of thousands of items and photographs will be installed in the roundabout above the welcome figure. The district is running this project with Donna Larouche coordinating. Perhaps the PAC could be involved in some way?

4. Treasurer/Budget Report

Lesley not attending tonight's meeting so budget update will occur at October meeting. In the process of moving bank accounts to Coast Capital and updating signing authorities.

Known annual expenses:

- \$100 of PAC funding for each classroom
- Grade 8 graduation
- Sports
- Christmas hampers
- Staff and teacher appreciation

5. Central Weekly (CW)

This is the weekly email to parents from the office with a schedule of events and other pertinent information. New format (link to PDF) this year. Feedback welcome – provide to PAC and will be passed along to the administration. PAC information to go in the weekly email should be sent to administration for approval before Nikki adds it to the CW email.

6. Cell Phone Policy

No cell phones allowed at school – including in backpacks and lockers. **Cell phones should be left at home.** There is a phone in the office which students may use if necessary and phone numbers can be pulled from the school database if the students forgets.

If parents would like their child to carry a cell phone for travel safety/logistics to and from school, this must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the administration. If approved, the child may bring their phone to school and **MUST** check the phone in at the office first thing in the morning. Even in such cases, the phone must not be used on school property. For more information, please inquire in the office.

7. Facebook

We encourage all parents to join the Central Middle School PAC Facebook page. This page will provide information on PAC meetings and events, a link to the PAC minutes each month, stories on events that occur at the school, and links to interesting and useful articles.

8. Fairways Cards

Jess H has touched base with Fairways about the program. The PAC will receive 5% of all monies spent from the cards. Parents can load the cards with \$ and then use to purchase groceries. Fairways will provide a quarterly statement and cheque to the CMS PAC.

9. PAC Year Ahead – Upcoming Activities and Ideas

a. Bottle Drive

Scheduled for October 13th (Saturday from 10am-2pm).

Will need at least 1 other parent to commit to helping out. \$ raised will go to support the purchase and installation of extra bike racks. Lesley will create flyers.

b. Craft Fair

Scheduled for December 1st (Saturday). Might have lots of kids this year due to Quebec trip. Will put together guidelines for success (e.g., make things people want to buy!) in an effort to avoid disappointed vendors. Times Colonist ad proof has been submitted. Kris and Jess will run it again this year but need at least one other parent to join our team.

c. Staff Appreciation Breakfasts – December and May

d. Parent Education Nights

Potential programs include “Math Night”, “Online Privacy and Safety”, “Substance and Marijuana Use Awareness”. Other ideas are welcomed!

e. Planter boxes

Currently full of last year’s plantings gone to seed.

f. Art project

Potential to work with a local artist on an art project. Will coordinate with Donna Larouche. Thank you to Farheen, for suggesting the potential to apply for extra funding (up to \$10,000 for 75% of costs) from Art Starts. The deadline to apply is in October. This might be a good opportunity for indigenous engagement as Victoria is home to many indigenous artists!

g. Christmas Hampers

Last year, the PAC completed approximately 20 hampers for needy families with CMS students. The PAC asks the school councillors for advise on families that may need a hamper. The councillors provide an anonymous list of families with ages and genders so that the PAC can compile hampers with suitable products. Once completed, the school councillors deliver the hampers to the families in need. This initiative was previously spearheaded by a PAC parent who’s child has moved to high school so a new team of parents is needed this year. We had a volunteer on the first day of school, as well as Amaiah and Dee at tonight’s meeting. Thank you!

h. Grade 5 information night – Jan 23, 2019

i. Indigenous liaison and engagement

CMS PAC wants to increase our engagement and participation with indigenous families at Central. The Indigenous Families and Friends night on Sept 20th will be a great place to introduce ourselves.

j. CMS Music PAC Liaison

We want to increase the communication between the two PACs this year. Their first meeting is next week on Tuesday, following the Music Parent Intro Night. Anne T is on the Music PAC and will help to liaise along with Diana G (first day of school sign up).

10. Other Business and Questions

Parent Q: does Central have parent reps for each class?

A: No. This program was tested a few years ago but fizzled as the needs are not the same in middle school.

Artist in the Classroom program is available through Art Starts to bring musicians, writers, artists, performers into the classroom.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:25pm

Next PAC Meeting – October 9, 2018 – 7pm