

Barrowtown Elementary PAC Meeting
November 2, 2021 at 3:30 pm
In the Kids Clubhouse

Present: *President* – Melissa Wiebe; *Treasurer* – Angie Quebec; *Secretary* - Kayla Wiens;
Principal – Michelle Basran; Jolene Ringrose

Principal's Report: Michelle Basran

Mrs. Basran recently came from North Poplar Elementary as one of their Vice Principals. In years past she has worked at other elementary and middle schools. Her main focus for the past 15 years has been LSS and ELL. Mrs. Basran has an open door policy. She wants everyone to know that she is willing to discuss whatever is on your mind, whether positive or negative. She is excited to be part of the Barrowtown community, and recognizes the great potential of our small school.

Thank you Card to Lepp's Farm – The grade 3/4/5 students are sending a card to Lepp's Market for donating all the pumpkins for the Pumpkin Olympics. Thank you, Lepp's for your support!

Mud Kitchen – Barrowtown has found a lady in Chilliwack who will make a mud kitchen for the playground area for \$300. The school hopes to improve and grow the outdoor learning opportunities that our school presents, and PAC has been asked to support this project. Mrs. Cavacece also presented an Amazon Wish List of other outdoor toys that can be purchased on behalf of the school. This whole week at recess nearly all the kids in the school have made an outdoor kitchen area on their own, that they all "work at." They have created *Ivy's Diner*, a restaurant that serves only pumpkin products, from all the left over pumpkins from the Pumpkin Olympics.

Greenhouse – Mrs. Basran and Mrs. Cavacece are also working hard together to better utilize the greenhouse, which would even further the outdoor learning opportunities. Being in an agricultural community, we are surrounded by knowledgeable students and families who work daily on farms. We are proud of this, and want to encourage further appreciation for farming and agriculture.

If any parents or families would like to teach our teachers about the greenhouse, then please contact the school. There is so much we want to learn with this resource we have been given.

Hoodies – There are 8 grade 5 students, so PAC will pay \$160 for their Grad Hoodies. Mrs. Basran will contact the T-shirt company.

Spirit Wear – Mrs. Basran will also look into Barrowtown clothing that families can purchase for their children.

No More House Teams – This year, now that the dynamics of the school have changed so much, staff has decided to encourage the school to accomplish tasks and challenges together as one

community. Pumpkin Olympics was the first time where this was put into play, and the students did well to work together to earn points to light up the Spook-O-Meter!

Mrs. Alisa, Barrowtown's Office Administrator, will now go down to 4 days a week. She will be in the office Monday through Thursday, so that the school can save money. Mrs. Basran will be in the office Thursdays and Fridays.

Diwali – Friday November 5 Barrowtown will celebrate the Festival of Lights with a video, dancing, chai tea, samosas, Timbits, henna, painting diyas (lanterns), and a rangoli craft (sand art in a decorative pattern). *Thank you Mandeep, Harpreet and Gurpreet for leading us in the celebration.*

Hot Lunch – November 25 Boston Pizza. *Jolene will let Alisa know about menu items.*

Christmas Food Drive – students will be asked to donate food to the Abbotsford Food Bank, and the school will earn points together for a prize

Christmas Play: North Pole's Got Talent - Staff has chosen this half hour play, of which they will add opportunities for the classes to sing a few songs. Script cost: \$167. PAC wants to help to prepare the show, so the school will let PAC know how they can help.

- Dress Rehearsal – December 16 at 2:00pm
- Evening Show – December 16

December 17 – Pajama Day, Pancakes and Hot Chocolate

Treasurer's Report : *Angie Quebec*

Chequing – \$1890.80

Savings – \$4,827.20

Gaming – \$1001.47

Cheques were written to Kayla Wiens and Jolene Ringrose on November to reimburse them for Pumpkin Olympics and Diwali. More cheques are expected to be written to reimburse other parents for Diwali.

Purchase Popcorn for Popcorn Machine

- Melissa motioned that we spend the \$60-\$70 to order popcorn from Amazon.
- Kayla seconded the motion
- All in favour: *Angie will order the popcorn from Amazon so we have it in time for Popcorn Day on November 18*

President's Report: *Melissa Wiebe*

Doormat Fundraiser – Ends November 5. Please turn in your fundraiser papers and money. Proceeds will go directly to the school for the mud kitchen.

Purdy's Fundraiser – An email will be sent out this week with a link to start our annual Christmas chocolate fundraiser. Proceeds will go toward the mud kitchen and further outdoor learning.

DPAC Meeting – Melissa went to the online meeting where she learned that school PACs are not supposed to accept e-transfers unless they are set up with autodeposit. Instead, it was suggested that PACs use School Cash Online, which also requires the help of the office administrator. Barrowtown PAC has autodeposit set up, and only uses the PAC email address. We appreciate the ease and efficiency this allows for handling money donations, especially during fundraisers. There is no middle man, or carrying cash in wallet, which you could forget that it belongs to PAC.

- Kayla motioned that we continue to use e-transfers, since all e-transfers go through our PAC email and is set up with autodeposit.
- Melissa seconded the motion
- All in Favour: We will continue to function with e-transfers using our PAC email and autodeposit

Barrowtown Catchment Lines – Melissa also spoke with our school district representative our redrawing district lines so that Barrowtown can have more students. No specific answer was given on this topic.

Popcorn Day – November 18 at snack

Alisa Treliving is not allowed to be our Food Safe volunteer. Jolene still has her food safe certification, but she is our only parent with food safe, and this is her last year at Barrowtown. *If you would like to receive your food safe certification, and you are willing to volunteer with PAC food service, then PAC is willing to pay for your course. Please contact PAC.*

Learning Commons Grant – It is unknown how much money is left of Barrowtown's Learning Commons Grant from December 2019. We were given a COVID extension, but since Terry is gone, we do not know where that stands. Mrs. Basran will look into that.

New Business

It was suggested that once we are allowed to do evening events again, that we should do another family movie night, as they were always well attended and enjoyed. Mrs. Basran said we should hold off on evening events until after Christmas, as there are rules about what types of events are available. As of now, our gym is allowed at half capacity (99 people), but the reasons for gathering are restricted.

We also discussed a night that families could meet the new principal, as this might be a gathering that would most likely be allowed under current district restrictions. This will be tabled for further discussion, but Pie with the Principal Night, was an idea.

Monthly General Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30 in the Kids Clubhouse. PLEASE COME JOIN US!

Upcoming Events

November 4 – Diwali

November 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly

November 11 – Remembrance Day

November 18 – Popcorn Day

November 25 – Boston Pizza Hot Lunch

November 26 – No School

December 3 – Report Cards for Elementary and Middle Schools

December 16 – Christmas Play: Daytime Dress Rehearsal, Evening Show

December 17 – Pajama Day, Pancake Day and Last Day of School Before Winter Break

January 4 – Back to School

Next PAC Meeting – Tuesday December 7 at 3:30.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm