

Barrowtown Elementary PAC Meeting
October 13, 2022 at 7:00pm
In the Library

Present: *Chair* – Rachel Slomp; *Treasurer* – Angie Quebec; *Secretary* - Kayla Wiens; *Principal* – Michelle Basran; *Teacher* – Melissa Wiebe; Bailey Kantor, Chelsea Hollaar, Nadine Simmons, Nicole

Principal's Report: Michelle Basran

Start Up and Staffing

Melissa Wiebe (former PAC Chair) has become the new K/1 Teacher at Barrowtown! We are so glad to have her on board! She has already done wonders with our K/1 students. Thank you, Mrs. Wiebe!

Little Caterpillars Daycare/Preschool and Before and After School Care will be up and running for Monday October 16! We are so excited to welcome them to on campus! They will be hosting an Open House on Sunday October 16 from 12-2pm for anyone interested in learning more.

Gym Remediation Project

The gym is being redone due to the flood. The foundational work should be done in late November, and the new gym floor will be complete upon the company's schedule. Hopefully that will be around mid December. Until then, gym is being held outside.

Child Care Student and Family Affordability Fund

SD34 has allotted \$1355 to our school for this year only to help support families in need of food, school supplies, school fees, and/or clothing. There is a tab on the Barrowtown Elementary website for more information if you are interested. You can also connect to staff if you are interested in support. Staff will allocate the money as they see best fit.

Classroom Fund

Every year PAC has donated \$200 per classroom to purchase needed books and other items that the teacher determines is needed. Barrowtown has asked PAC to consider this again. Can PAC please contribute again?

- *This was not further discussed, so we need to bring this up at the next meeting.*

Kiwanis Read Around the World

Kiwanis has donated \$500 to the K/1 Class so they can purchase more classroom books. Thank you, Kiwanis Club!

Agriculture and Outdoor Learning Opportunities

School put a work order in to install an outside hose bib of the greenhouse to help with watering.

We continue to receive support from the district to explore an agriculture/outdoor learning based delivery of the curriculum. Mrs. Basran has enlisted the help of a UFV professor who works in the Education and English departments, and who is also a research associate with the Food and Agriculture Institute to help us explore this idea. Michelle Superle has offered to work with us to develop a curriculum that could be rolled out by January 2023.

Parents, please take this opportunity to send her your thoughts and ideas. She wants to help create a curriculum with our students in mind, and she would LOVE to hear from you.

Michelle Superle 604-997-3887 michelle.superle@ufv.ca

Michelle and Rachel are meeting with Kevin, a principal from Alberta who created an Ag specialty program in his struggling rural school. Now it is a thriving campus with many students requesting to attend. The intention is that he will be able to give Michelle and Rachel ideas on how to develop an Agricultural curriculum that will suit Barrowtown's needs and even help make Barrowtown an agriculture choice school in the Abbotsford school district.

We are also looking to organize a Agriculture Subgroup with parents who are interested in helping to develop this program. *Please let us know if you are interested in participating in this.*

Paving Stones Project

Staff and students want to build a pathway through the garden area, and also use it as a way to honor the students and families who went through the Flood of November 2021.

If anyone would like to donate to this or has connections to paving stones and/or concrete skills, please contact the school.

Treasurer's Report : Angie Quebec

Chequing – \$3576.74

Savings – \$4840.14

Gaming – \$2061.92

2022-2023 Gaming Grant has been deposited into our gaming account.

Cheques Written:

Neufeld Farms Fundraiser - \$2525.00

Will pay Bailey for the Tshirt order when the order is complete. Bailey, please make an invoice for PAC.

President's Report: Rachel Slomp

President's Introduction to PAC and Recent PAC History

This past year PAC and Barrowtown have been working hard together to help rebuild interest and a potential student population at our school. Such events as moving down to 2 divisions, abruptly having 3 grades per class, losing our beloved Mrs. Crozier, unexpectedly losing our old principal, welcoming a brand-new principal, and of course the traumatic events of the flood,

left Barrowtown in a vulnerable situation. 3 teachers held the school together, and PAC dug in to keep our teachers and students from crumbling under the weight of it all. As we looked around we began to see the resources we had, like our greenhouse, the farming location of our school, and the agricultural interest and vocation of families. This led us on a path in which we are working to utilize these to help move us into a more agricultural/outdoor curriculum, and even an ag choice school. Rachel even worked hard to get a new daycare into our portables to hopefully help rebuild our student population. We are at a turning point in our school, and we are excited to see the opportunities that this year will hold. It can only go up from here!

PAC Meeting Times

To generate more interest and parent involvement, PAC will rotate the times of our meetings each month until we determine which time slot allows for the most parent participation and attendance. The times will be either 2:30 pm or 7:00 pm until further posted.

Fundraisers

1. Neufeld Farms – *Please pick up orders Monday October 17 after school*
 - a. \$625 profit has been earned for PAC!
 - b. And a HUGE congratulations to Tamsyn! You sold the most, so you have won a \$20 gift certificate to Bantor Ice Cream! Way to go, girl!
2. Purdy's Chocolate – Start November 1. *An email will be sent out with the link.*
 - a. Supporter Deadline – November 29
 - b. Supporter Pick Up – December 7
3. Barrowtown Tshirts – 51 Tshirts have been sold! Orders should arrive in 4-6 weeks.
4. Old Oak and Co. Floor Mats – Will start this week. More details will be sent home.
5. West Coast Seeds – *Rachel will make a bid with West Coast Seeds to try to do a fundraiser through them. This company only does a limited number of fundraisers. If our application is not accepted, we will ask West Coast Seeds to donate seeds to Barrowtown.*
6. Farmers Markets – As students grow their produce in the greenhouse, we may want to consider setting up a stand at farmers markets to earn money.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch will start in November. A request was made for a new hot lunch coordinator. More details to come.

Popcorn Day

Popcorn days will start November 1. *Angie has volunteered to start this up. A school cash online will be arranged with Alisa so that students can pay for the whole year in advance, and a schedule will be sent out.*

Family Nights

There was discussion about starting up Family Nights again. There seemed to be interest in movie nights, bowling nights, and maybe even a family dance night. Bailey Kantor and Nadine Simmons volunteered to coordinate plans for getting this started again.

New Business

PAC Contributions Towards Agriculture and Outdoor Learning

Brian Minter has agreed to come teach our students about winter gardening in our greenhouse. We are looking forward to this visit.

Abbotsford Community Grants

Abbotsford offers community grants of \$500 each for opportunities that will help foster community building. PAC would like to apply for a grant to help us purchase a chicken coop, roadside stand, outside irrigation, and/or other community education events. Abbotsford does not put a limit on grants, so we can apply for multiple grants. The grade 4/5 class may want to help participate in applying for the grants, and deciding what to do with the money.

Usborne Books

Nadine Simmons is an Usborne Books consultant. Students can participate in a 10 day Read-a-thon in which they can get pledges to read. Students can earn credit to purchase books for their personal library, and the school will also earn an equal amount to purchase their own books as well. A store is set up in which students can purchase their books. An email will be sent out inviting Barrowtown to participate.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next Meeting – November 17 at 2:30pm

Upcoming Events

October 18 – Eco Tour/Earthwise Soil and Worms Field Trip
October 19 – Half Day of School for Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 20 – Early Dismissal at 1:18pm
October 21 – Non-Instructional Day
October 31 – Greendale Acres Field Trip at 11:00
November 10 – Non-Instructional Day
November 11 – Remembrance Day (No School)
December 16 – Last Day of School Before Winter Break
December 19 thru January 2 – Winter Break
January 3 – Back to School