



McKee School Advisory Council



November 2009

School Advisory Council Meetings

Thanks to the many parents who attended our October meeting, especially the newcomers. It's a great chance to meet other parents, find out more about this committee's role in your child's educational experience, help in some decision-making process and to ask questions. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 11** – The administration will review the school budget, how it is set and brings us up to date on any other happenings in and around the school. Please join us!

Remember, the meetings are in the staff room and there is babysitting provided.

Playground

Finally, our new playground equipment is here! The children seem to have forgotten the other playscape as they discover and explore the new equipment. The playscape was chosen with the help of students, parents and school staff last year under the direction of landscape architect Kim Allerton of Northwood Architects. We are still waiting for some trees to be planted this fall. For those of you new to the school, this equipment is part of a larger scheme to improve the school grounds and is being funded by you through SAC fundraising and the school administration's budget. Future plans can be seen on the window of the main office.

Pizza days

Pizza days this month will be on **November 12 and 26!** Remember prices are \$3.50 for a one slice lunch, \$4.50 for a two-slice lunch and \$5.50 for three-slice lunch. All lunches include a juice and a treat. Take a break from packing lunches and support your school at the same time.

Fundraising/Christmas gifts

Get your shopping done early and beat the holiday rush. Instead of buying gift cards elsewhere, get them from *Fundscrip* and at NO EXTRA COST to you a percentage of the price of the gift card automatically goes toward student programmes and facilities at McKee! You can get gift cards for groceries, gas, toys, electronics, fashion, movie tickets, restaurants, department stores and much much more! You should receive a yellow form explaining all the details shortly.

See the website http://www.fundscrip.com/Retailers/retailer_list.aspx for a complete list of participating retailers.

Keeping informed

We are in the process of updating the "Parents" section of the McKee P.S. website so that it contains up-to-date information. When this is done, we hope to be able to offer minutes of the more recent parent night meetings, electronic monthly bulletins, and calendar of events. Please note that the google groups has been cancelled. We are waiting to have a dedicated SAC email address registered at the TDSB and will inform parents as soon as it is set up.

Needed: A parent who is willing to help keep the SAC portion of the McKee PS website up to date. If you are interested, please let the office know.

Elsewhere in the community...

Parent involvement conference

Parents from all across Toronto are invited to participate in a one-day FREE conference offered by the TDSB. Among the many topics are:

"Encouraging the Love of Learning at Home", "Promoting a Healthy Mind for Children and Youth", "Parent Teacher Interview: Making the Most of Your 5 Minutes".

It will be held at Earl Haig Secondary School located (100 Princess Avenue, North York ON (North York Centre Subway Station). Childcare and lunch is provided. Space is limited so make sure you register at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/survey/parentconference>.

More info is available at:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=8109&pageid=7084

Just Read It

The new TDSB director, Dr. Spence has initiated a program called "Just Read It."

"The aim of the program is to get all of us, and especially our students, reading as much as we can. Everyone participating can keep track on-line of what books are being read and how many books each of us is reading. Tracking will be done for a whole year and prizes awarded among participants over the course of the year to encourage us to keep it up. Book recommendations can be found every month at www.tdsb.on.ca. Those with limited access to computers, may benefit from this City of Toronto program: http://www.toronto.ca/socialservices/kids_comps.htm re computers for students in receipt of OW, ODSP and also low income."