



McKee School Advisory Council



October 2009

Welcome and Welcome Back!

The McKee School Advisory Council welcomes all the new families and staff to McKee and welcomes back all the returning families and staff. We hope you had a great summer and have now settled into the new routines of the school year.

Thank you to all the parents, staff and even the staff's older children who helped out with the annual Welcome Back BBQ. We served over 900 hamburgers and hotdogs – a new record!

School Advisory Council Meetings

We had our first SAC meeting for the year on September 16 and we thank all the parents who came out. The administration gave us an update on the class structure and sizes. The new SAC executive and committee representatives were selected. The meetings for the whole year are listed below. Please make it a goal to try and join us for one meeting this year. For those who need it, there is a babysitter for every meeting.

Mark Your Calendars...

...with the SAC meetings for the year. Remember, the meetings are in the staff room and there is babysitting provided.

Wednesday October 7 – The administration will bring us up to date on the EQAO results for the past year.

Wednesday, November 11 – The administration will review the school budget and how it is set.

Wednesday January 13 - Planning for the Fun Fair starts!

Wednesday February 10 – Updates on school activities and plans for spring.

Wednesday April 15 – The administration will inform us of the planning for the next school year.

Wednesday May 12 – Last meeting before the Fun Fair!

Wednesday, June 16 – Last School Advisory Council Meeting of the year – 6:30 pm in the staff room.

Playground

A big topic at the SAC meetings this year will be improvements to the playground. Those who are new to the McKee community may not realize that a few short years ago, the field was not covered in woodchips but was mud when it rained and dust when it was dry. This condition left most of the outdoor space unusable in wet or windy weather. The administration has worked hard with the TDSB to cover the mud with woodchips and to place turf (grass) on half of the field. This means that our children can enjoy the field in almost all weather.

Last year, a “playground committee” was formed. The members included staff representatives, a student representative, 2 parents, a landscape architect and TDSB Grounds employees. The committee explored several iterations of the playground design and the final playground design was posted near the office.

At the end of June, the administration and the SAC contributed \$25,000 to the playground trust fund to purchase and instal additional playscape equipment, 2 tri-hoops and 8 trees. It is our hope that these will be installed before the winter.

We encourage all parents to come and hear the latest in McKee’s efforts to improve our kids’ playspace. If you are a JK/SK parent, your children may not make it over to the “big kids” playground much this year but they will in the coming years. Please come and get involved!

Fundraising

Our biggest fundraiser at McKee is the Pizza Lunch that happens just about every 2 weeks. If you can help serve pizza at lunch (and it doesn’t have to be every time!) then please contact Debbie Ralston at deborah.ralston@rogers.com. There will be a holiday fundraiser in November and December and we hope you will participate, as you are able, in order to raise funds for school programs and the playground revitalization project.

Introducing our new SAC executive and committee members are:

Co- Chairs – Jennifer Schmidt and Debbie Ralston. Jennifer has 3 boys at McKee in grades JK, 2 and 4. Debbie has 1 boy in grade 2. She is also a tireless volunteer in Mrs Young’s class and organizes the pizza lunches with Clement Lee.

together last year and must have had fun because they agreed to do it again!

Secretary – Frieda Chen. Frieda is new to McKee and we are very excited to have her volunteer for this position. Her daughter is in JK.

Co-Treasurers – Robert Co and Koon Leung. Robert has 2 daughters, one in SK and one isn’t quite old enough for McKee yet! He was treasurer last year and we thank him for his dedication. Koon has 2 boys at McKee in grades JK and 2. Koon has helped run the fun fair in the past and we are so happy to have her rejoin us!

Pizza Lunch Coordinators – Debbie Ralston and Clement Lee. Clem has 2 boys here at McKee in grades JK and 2. Debbie and Clem did this job

Health and Safety Coordinator – Alan Tam. Alan has been at McKee for many years with 2 boys, one in grade 4 and the other just moved on to Cummer Valley in grade 6. He has just stepped down as Chair. We thank him for continuing to support council by taking on this role.

Fun Fair Coordinator and Team – Julie Costanzo, Haleh Aminian and Hai Liang Pan. Julie was our Fair coordinator last year and has 2 girls at

January 15, 2010

McKee in grades 1 and 3. She is very happy to have Haleh and Hai Liang join her for the planning of the fair and raffle.

Teacher Representative – Nancy Charron. Mrs Charron has the privilege of knowing almost every child at McKee as the school Librarian. We appreciate her enthusiasm, shopping expertise and, of course, her guidance on council matters.