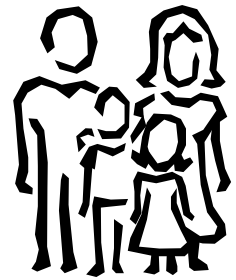


Hello to All from the Parent Advisory Council!

This has certainly been a busy school year! It was great to see some parents of RES kids come out and participate in our meetings this year – thanks so much for investing your time! As a Parent Advisory Council (PAC), we were busy learning about Restitution and Developmental Assets, as well as keeping “in-the-know” with all the school goings-on. Once the moratorium on school closures was announced, we became involved with the Rossburn Community meeting, which focussed on finding ways to enhance our community and thus keep our schools going and growing! If you missed the community meeting and would like a copy of what the PAC presented, please email me at: RES_PAC@live.ca



We are at an exciting juncture in Rossburn – a time when all community members need to pull together to ensure the viability of our community and its future.... and our future is our kids! As a PAC, we are ramping up to help support RES as a place of strength and belonging in our community. The school is focussing on several initiatives next year, and we are excited to help out Mrs. Clempson and her hard-working staff in realizing their goals for our kids. These goals include a focus on nutrition; a focus on developmental assets by involving students in projects that make them aware of their part in the global community; and a focus on increasing students’ capacity for self-assessment. As a PAC we have already begun the process of brainstorming ways in which we can help further these school initiatives, but there is much more work to be done, and we need YOUR help! **We plan to have a meeting on Monday, June 23 at 7pm to further “flesh out” some of these ideas for the coming school year.** Please consider this your invitation to attend – all are welcome! Contact me by email at: RES_PAC@live.ca or call the school for further information.

Note Regarding Participation in Religious Exercises:

I would like to remind everyone of a note that Audrey sent out in the April 2008 RES Newsletter regarding religious exercises:

According to Manitoba’s Public Schools Act,
“If a petition asking for religious exercises, signed by the parents or guardians of 75% of the pupils in the case of a school having fewer than 80 pupils or by the parents or guardians of at least 60 pupils in the case of a school having an enrolment of 80 or more pupils, is presented to the school board, religious exercises shall be conducted for the children of those parents or guardians in that school year.”
For the rest of this school year, we will continue to say The Lord’s Prayer, but in September we will need to begin to comply with the law regarding religious exercises. Further information about the guidelines for religious exercises in schools can be found at http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/admin/adm_book.pdf

The current practice for RES is that a parent/guardian signature is collected by RES upon school registration for permission for your child to participate in religious exercises at school. At RES, this means that children recite The Lord’s Prayer as part of their morning exercises. Even though collecting signatures at RES at registration time is the most practical way to carry out the wishes of parents, it is technically NOT legal. Religious exercises must be a parent-driven initiative! **To comply to the legislation, the parents of at least 60 RES children must send a petitioning letter each school year to the school board indicating that they wish their child to participate in religious exercises.** Parents can compose their own letter; OR, to help facilitate this, the PAC has made available a “form letter” which you can fill in with your child’s name and submit with their school registration. The PAC will then submit these letters to the school board on your behalf. This letter is available from myself, or from the town of Rossburn office or website at www.town.rossburn.mb.ca . Navigate your way to the Schools and Education page, under the Businesses and Services menu.

Note that in September 2008, if you have not submitted such a letter to the school on your child’s behalf, they will be removed from the room during the Lord’s prayer. Further, if there are not letters from the parents of at least 60 children requesting religious exercises, RES will not be allowed to continue having The Lord’s Prayer as part of morning exercises, according to provincial law.

On behalf of the PAC, I wish you all a happy, healthy summer! Enjoy yourself, and we look forward to your participation with the PAC in September 2008!

Paula Hrycak
Chairperson, Rossburn Elementary Parent Advisory Council