

2017/2018 PAC Chair Year End Report

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, I would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge some of the highlights and extend a big thank you to the people who were bright shiny stars this year.

The 2017/2018 school year had a bit of a bumpy start; portables were being built, we had classes in the gym and in the library. Outdoor learning, field trips and swimming lessons were implemented as alternatives to classroom time. Frustrations arose and students were restless, but we all made it through the rough patch.

We now have 2 bright new studios, our library and gym back, AND a new Grade 4/5 playground! We're back on track!

We started off the first 2 days of school with some helpful parents, in our red PAC t-shirts, handing out the pre-ordered school supplies from the library porch. This was a great location to use, as we are outside, but covered, near the main school doors and anyone who is new can see us and come and ask for help or directions. If Lorraine Powell will oblige us, we will work from there again! A big Thank you to Sam Crawshaw for taking on this large task, getting us organised and making it all happen so smoothly! You are a star!

Once the children were sorted and settled in their classrooms, it was time for Meet the Teacher night, and the annual Ice Cream Social! Angela Jackson, thank you! What a great time to meet the teachers, reconnect with parents and friends while we all enjoyed some ice cream!

Our Welcome Committee this year, has slowly disintegrated....Natasha Stott and family moved back to the mainland over the Christmas break, and Kristina Millen and family have moved to Calgary (as of yesterday!). We wish them very good luck and all the best!

Karen Manders has offered to take over the Welcome Committee for the coming year, and she is already working away on some of her great ideas!!

We did a big push this year for our PAC Contribution Drive, but I was also trying to cut down on the amount of paper that gets wasted....not quite as successful as I would have liked initially, but with several gentle reminders and the $\frac{4}{5}$ playground as motivation, we collected just over \$14,000 and now we have something BIG to show for it!

We have a unique plan for next years Contribution Drive.....stay tuned for donuts....er, details!

In November, our Kindergarten Liaison Danielle Brochu, organized the first of 3 Kindy Parents Pub Nights. As I am a parent of a kindergartener, we attended all 3 events; 1 each in November, February and May and we are looking forward to the Kindy Picnic this coming Friday evening. Thank you, Danielle for getting us all together!

December rang in with another successful Movie Night in our gym, "Muppets Christmas Carol" was the movie this year. We had the junior grades (and families) the first night, and the senior grades the second night. Everyone who came, snuggled themselves in, with blankets and stuffies at the ready, while PAC parents filled bags and our helpful Grade 5 Elves handed out some Kernels Popcorn for all to enjoy.

Big thank you to Angela Jackson for getting us (including our fabulous Elven helpers) organized and in the gym for a fun, festive evening!

As classes resumed after the holiday, so began sniffle-season...for Valentine's Day the PAC's young helpers, delivered be-ribboned boxes of Kleenex and some chocolate to each classroom.

May brought with it a hint of warmer weather to come and, of course, Bike to School Week!

Jacqueline Lines rolled in yet another successful week of PAC sponsored prizes for those that rolled to school, the Grade 4 Bike Roadeo, and class pizza for the most participants! The bike trains, leaving from North and South Oak Bay locations, were rained upon, but that didn't deter many!

Mayor Nils Jansen, Councillor Michelle Kirby, and Deputy Police Chief Ray Bernoties lead the trains of children safely to school, and there were smiles all around.

Our third annual Blossom Tree festival was a roaring success, in great part to the amazing Angela Jackson. I do not know how she pulls it all together so successfully, but I know we were so lucky to have her dream big, plan well, and organize us, for as long as we did. Next year it's going to take a whole committee to pull it off!

The Food Trucks were a huge hit again this year, as was the photo booth. The obstacle course, hosted by PISE, was a fan favourite. My kids came home with candy, and prizes and paper airplanes and had clearly had A LOT of fun! A big Willows thank you to those of you who volunteered, helped set up, take down, blow up balloons, played Toilet Toss, enjoyed the food trucks, and joined in the fun. Merci beaucoup!

The first weekend in June is always the Oak Bay Tea Party. On the Saturday morning, about 35 students and their parents, and siblings (on bikes, scooters, strollers or their own 2 feet), dressed in red and white from tip to tail, danced and paraded through the streets of Oak Bay, lead by the fabulous Julie Bent and her nieces, from Windsor Park to Willows Beach. We handed out red and white candies to those lining the streets, and had individual candy bags for each parade participant, plus an entry to the raffle to win \$20 of ride tickets for the fair! Thank you for joining us, it was great fun, and Willows placed First in the Children's Group!

Monday, June 11th, was the last Pro-D day this year, and we gladly hosted the Staff Appreciation Lunch, here at the school. Catered by our local delicatessen, Charelli's, sandwiches, salads, veggies and sweets were beautifully displayed, and hastily (and gratefully) devoured. I said a few words of thanks and appreciation, and then left the staff to enjoy their meals.

A big thanks to my set-up and take-down crew, without whom the luncheon would not have been as lovely as it was.

The PAC's biggest goal was achieved this month. We are all so excited and pleased to see the brand new grade 4/5 playground officially open for business!

Congratulations and thank you to all the families that have contributed over the years, the OB Firefighters Charitable Organization, to our corporate sponsors for helping us achieve our goal and a huge monkey bar hug to Christina Smith, and Bronwen Sharpe for their tenacity and determination to get this playground built and installed. Huge thanks to Wendy Holob, for advocating for Willows PAC.

Sausage Fest is this coming Saturday June 23rd. This year the OB Firefighters Charitable Foundation has asked us to join with Monterey Middle school and volunteer for some of the jobs that need doing. All monies raised will be shared equally between Willows and Monterey, and this is sure to be a fantastically fun event; live music, beer garden, dunk tank, bouncy castle.... Hope to see you all there!

Thank you so very much for supporting ME this year, as PAC chair, I really could not have done it all without you; my team, my friends, my executive;

Past Chair; Bronwen Sharpe - thank you for being my guide, the little birdie that reminds me when something needs doing, the voice of reason and of advocacy and for your cheerful manner that convinces anyone you talk to, that they, in fact, DO want to do what you are asking them!

Vice Chair: Angela Jackson - My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Angela Jackson,, as she graduates to middle-school. Your enthusiasm and energy for all things FUN is infectious and inspiring. Thank you for your many tireless hours of behind the scenes work to make every event seem magical. I believe a round of applause is in order here...

Treasurer; Jenny Dickson - another SuperMom, who works long hours at work, longer hours at home, AND always has a cheery smile. We appreciate you, and we thank you!

Secretary; Chelsea Carter - for your detailed minutes and strong opinions, and thoughtful comments, we thank you!

And our Members at large;

Communications; Jean Pakvis - Thank goodness we are close friends; the amount of things I ask you to post, how to do, or one more “can you edit this”? Would drive most people nuts....Thank you!

Canadian Parents for French Representative; Stephanie Novak - Merci Beaucoup!

VCPAC Representative: Loring Trent- thank you for reporting back from VCPAC meetings and keeping us up to date.

A big shiny thank you to our coordinators and committee leaders;

Class Rep Coordinator; Kelli Van Leeuwen - Thank you for helping me harass every division in the school at least once a week. I mean, update!!!

Kindergarten Liaison; Danielle Brochu - Thank you for stepping up and doing a great job of getting all us Kindy parents together every few months; when I voluntold you it would be fun!

Pizza/Sushi Day Coordinators Jane Kucherway and Harriet Tuppen - Thank you for happy kids, everytime! :)

Lice Check Coordinators; Not the most glamorous job, but Thank you for doing it, Emma Mister and Marguerita Chapman.

Stationery Supplies Coordinator; Samantha Crawshaw - Thanks for helping us “hit the easy button”!

Emergency Preparedness Coordinators; Greg Swan and Loring Trent - Thank you for keeping us supplied and prepared for an emergency.

Hospitality Coordinators; Alyson Enge and Fiona Auld - Thank you for supplying the coffee and cookies for our meetings (“I’m just here for the cookies” could not more true in some cases!)

Playground Committee: Christina Smith and Bronwen Sharpe - what a year ladies! You are amazing! A round of applause please.....

Bike-to-School Week Coordinator; Jacqueline Lines - thanks for organizing a fun Bike Week, again!

For our new members, joining the team we welcome Jean Pakvis, to the role of Vice Chair/Communications, Krissy Johns, our new Secretary, Karen Manders; Welcome to Willows Coordinator, Alyx Valdal next year's Kindy liaison, and Kate Hinds, who will help brother-in-law Greg Swan with Emergency Preparedness. The Events committee will be headed by Sam Crawshaw; and assisted by Emma Mister, Danielle Brochu and anyone else who loves to throw a party!

Thank you to Wendy for your assistance and guidance this year, for always advocating for the families here, and for being the voice of reason.

Tim, it has truly been a joy to have you as our Vice Principal this year. Not everyone can pull off both goofy and firm, while teaching Grade 5 and being an administrator, but your joking East Coast humour and huge grin serves you (and the children) well.

We will miss you, enjoy the summer with your family!

Last, but not least, our families. The PAC wouldn't be able to sustain the initiatives and projects that we do without the contributions of both volunteer hours and money from you, the parents. PAC funds raised by our annual contribution drive support such things as; new playground equipment, library books, community events, sports equipment, and school wide events such as the Ice Cream Social all the way through to the Fun Day popsicles. We continue to support our staff and students; using the Gaming Fund Grant money to continue with the Field Trip Allotments and Bus Project.

Thank you for supporting the PAC and thereby supporting the teachers and staff to provide the very best in opportunities and education to your child.

We look forward to the 2018/2019 school year, and what great things we might accomplish. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Cindy Rodier
PAC Chair
20 June, 2018