

## 2018/2019 PAC Chair Year End Report

As the end of the school year approaches, I would like to take a few minutes to acknowledge some of this year's highlights, and thank the folks who helped pull it all together! The 2018/2019 school year had a much better start; everyone was in classrooms (not the gym or library).

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. A big thank you to Sam Crawshaw for taking on this task, getting us organized and making it all happen so smoothly!

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

Karen Manders is heading the Welcome Committee again this year, and she has been working away on some of her ideas, such as tours for the new families on the first day of school, and making the updated school handbook available to all.

Our December Family Movie Night was a big hit again this year, "The North Pole", although slightly cheesy, was popular and had no scary parts! We'll call that a win! Our Grade 5 elves, were super helpful and festively dressed to hand out the Kernels Popcorn and candy canes. They even helped with the cleanup! As classes resumed after the holiday break, so began sniffle-season...for Valentine's Day the PAC delivered be-ribboned boxes of Kleenex, 2 white board markers and some chocolate to each classroom. They were well received!

Our fourth annual Blossom Tree festival was a huge success, by all accounts! The 6 Food Trucks were a huge hit again this year, as was the photo booth. The obstacle course, hosted by PISE, was a fan favourite. A big Willows thank you to those of you who volunteered, helped set up, take down, blow up balloons, played the new Nose Picker game, enjoyed the food trucks, and joined in the fun. This year was awesome; with Sam Crawshaw and her team, Danielle Brochu (maker of the Nose Picker game), Emma Mister, and Ashley Hamilton running the show! It went off without a hitch! Thank you so much for your endless

hours of planning, setting up, creating and just being so involved in making the most of our kid's school events. You rocked it!

The first weekend in June is always the Oak Bay Tea Party. On the Saturday morning, about 45 students and some parents, and siblings (on bikes, scooters, strollers or their own 2 feet), dressed in red and white, paraded through the streets of Oak Bay. We handed out candies to those lining the streets, and had individual candy bags for each parade participant. Thank you for joining us, it was great fun, and Willows placed First in the Children's Group (again)!

Jackie Lines organized yet another successful week of PAC sponsored prizes for those that wheeled to school, the Grade 4 Bike Roadeo, and class pizza for the most participants per Division! The bike trains, leaving from North and South Oak Bay locations, Michelle Kirby, and Deputy Police Chief Ray Bernoties, and Constable Perry along with other OBPD members and several parents, lead the trains of children safely to school, and there were smiles all around.

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 fruit were beautifully displayed, and hastily (and gratefully) devoured. We got a cake this year for dessert; it read "Goodbye Tension, Hello Pension", as two long time staff are retiring this month; Mme. Alyssa O'Rourke and Mrs. Wendy Holob. A big thanks to my set-up and take-down crew, Sam, Danielle, and Emma without whom the luncheon would not have been as lovely as it was.

As I type this, my freezer is stuffed full of popsicles for Tuesday's Fun Day, field trips and local outings are being prepared for, and most likely the teachers are putting the finishing touches on the report cards.

We did another big push this year for our PAC Contribution Drive, we collected just over \$15,000 and our next step is to compile some ideas for "big ticket items" that our school community needs or wants, and prioritize that list via a survey. This year we split the cost of some new risers for the choir, with the school. Mrs. Evans was thrilled, and none of the kids fell off during the musical!

Thank you so very much for supporting me this year, 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 guiding voice of reason, and my friend.

**Vice Chair/Communications Goddess: Jean Pakvis;** thank you for doing all the things I don't know how to do to share PAC information. Thank you for allowing me to regularly break into your house, pat your kitty, steal your cooler and pack your freezer full of ice creams or popsicles, when need be.

**Treasurer: Jenny Dickson** - another very busy Mom, who works long hours at work, longer hours at home, AND always has a cheery smile. We so appreciate you, and thank you!

**Secretary: Krissy Johns** - Thank you for taking excellent minutes, for reminding me occasionally to follow the process, and for knowing all the juicy updates...about everything!

And our Members at large;

**Canadian Parents for French Representative: Stephanie Novak** - Merci Beaucoup!

**VCPAC Representative: Carrie Swatland-** 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 keeping our class parents informed and organized. The baton will be passed to Trish Weaver for next year.

**Emergency Preparedness** - this spot is currently vacant.

**Kindergarten Liaison: Alyx Valdal** - Thank you for stepping up and doing a great job of getting the Kindy parents together, and for doing it again next year!

**Assistant Treasurer: Michele Bristow** - Thanks for keeping us on track, and for sharing your good ideas!

**Pizza/Sushi Day Coordinators:** Jane Kucherway and Harriet Tuppen - Thank you for happy kids, everytime! :) For the coming school year, Michele Bristow will manage the online orders and contributions and Melanie Stickly will coordinate our parent volunteers and the food.

**Lice Check Coordinators:** Not the most glamorous job, but thank you for doing it, Emma Mister and Marguerita Chapman!

**Stationery Supplies Coordinator:** Samantha Crawshaw - Thank you for starting off our year right, and being so organized! For the coming year we have Nicole Forseth to help us "hit the easy button" - don't forget to order your supplies online soon!

**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 be more true in some cases!)

**Bike-to-School Week Coordinator:** Jacqueline Lines - thanks for organizing a fun Bike Week, again! We are looking for someone to take on this week long event for next year.

Dianne Chretien, thank you for jumping in to help out for many of our events, and keeping the Grade 5's on the right path!

Wendy, I have gotten to know you so much better over the last two years, and I really appreciate how tough your job must be, and how excited you must be to retire in a few more weeks!! The epitome of "grace under fire," I have admired your calm, measured response when under pressure from SD61, staff, parents, even grandparents! For the past 11 years you have been the matriarch of our Willows family, the finder of all the things, kept order in the halls, and marched in the parades with us, and now we bid you adieu and wish you a very happy retirement. You will be missed! We have provided you with a few things to help you ease into your new laid-back lifestyle.

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 2019/2020 school year and wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Cindy Rodier  
PAC Chair  
19 June, 2019