

School Community Council Update

PAC Participants Discussed Media Excesses

During the January 17, 2008 Parent Advisory Council meeting, Bill Cooke, Director of Education, discussed recent incidents where the media have taken liberties that cause great concern to the school division and that offend the values for which the school division stands. In his presentation, Cooke cited incidents where the media sensationalized coverage of events and such coverage both appalled and frightened the public. Participants at the PAC meeting also expressed their disappointment with the media and applauded the school division's efforts to make the media more accountable.



The Parent Advisory Council meets again on March 20, 2008 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Education Centre. Members of the School Health Promotion Team will visit to present their program. As well, the Board of Education's 2007-2008 School Division Improvement plan will be reviewed with parents.

School Community Council Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education is interested in the minutes of each School Community Council. The minutes are placed in a binder that is accessible to each member of the Board. In order to have timely information, **please send your minutes to Joyce Ward at the Education Centre following each School Community Council meeting.**

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTIONS

Each School Community Council has a constitution which was approved by the Board of Education. Over the last few months, School Community Councils have requested minor changes to their constitutions and these changes have been incorporated into the constitutions. For all constitutions, Section 3,6: Special Meeting has been eliminated. The recent changes to The Education Act and Regulations do not require Special Meetings.

You can review your School Community Council Constitution online at the school division web site. The address is www.srsd119.ca; click on "Parent

Information" and you will see a link to School Community Council Constitutions.

A School Community Council may amend its constitution by sending suggestions for change in writing to the Board of Education.





THE PRINCE ALBERT SMART FAMILIES FOOD CO-OP

The Smart Families Food Co-op is a local group with approximately 660 members in and around Prince Albert. The Co-op provides boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables to the general public at affordable prices. Participants pay \$20 for a large food box and \$10 for a smaller box.

The program is open to anyone, regardless of income level or location. Buying a Good Food Box is a great way to eat healthier while also saving time and money. **For more information, contact the program coordinator at 763-0242.**

Important dates:

- **February 6:** Large food box payment deadline
- **February 13:** Large food box pickup
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- **February 20:** Small food box payment deadline
- **February 27:** Small food box pickup
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- **March 5:** Large food box payment deadline
- **March 12:** Large food box pickup
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- **March 19:** Small food box payment deadline
- **March 26:** Small food box pickup

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hold on to your Kids

The Carlton Comprehensive High School Community Council will present a special evening for families featuring guest speaker Tamara Strijack. Tamara's presentation "Hold on to your Kids" will shed some light on what our teenagers may be experiencing, developmentally and emotionally, the hope is that we will see our teenagers differently.

And this shift in understanding should give us the confidence we need to stay connected and thus provide what they need to develop.

This evening is on February 6 at 7:00 PM in the Carlton Cafetorium. A symposium of booths featuring various Prince Albert community resources will be available in the rotunda.

- Doors open at 6:00 p.m.;
- Displays form 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.;

•Guest Speaker from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Coffee and snacks will be available. There will be no charge for the evening. Free daycare and activities will be available for children ages 5 and under. Free Science Camp for children ages 6 to 12.

Drug Proof Your Kids: A Prevention Guide for Parents

Monday, February 11th, 2008 or
Wednesday, February 13th, 2008

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Vincent Massey Community School
2999-3rd Ave E, Prince Albert, SK

It is a reality that our kids are exposed to a variety of difficult choices every day. For example:

* Friends * After school activities/
sports *Peer Pressure *Drugs and
alcohol.

Lets work together to equip our kids with the tools they need to make healthy decisions and to be informed about drugs and alcohol. **This pilot project includes five lessons: (a)** The Power of Parents, **(b)** Talking with Your Kids, **(c)** Teaching Kids to Make Good Decisions, and **(d)** what Parents Need to Know About Drugs.

Are these workshops for you?

If you are a parent of school age children, an adult working with children, or a concerned community member, this is the program for you. Join us and help mold the future of your children to be Drug free. Your input and participation in this project is vital. Empower yourself, your family, your community and importantly your children to take the lead against drug use.

In conjunction with RCMP Drug and Organized Crime Awareness Service, Vincent Massey Community School is pleased to offer these workshops. Contact Tanya at 763-7495 for more information (childcare and/or transportation may be requested).



School Community Council Survey

Chairpersons of School Community Councils will soon be receiving a survey from Toni Cooke, the school division's SCC resource person. Toni is interested in learning a number of things about your School Community Council and how she and others can support its development. Our request is that you complete this survey as a whole council at your next meeting. The results of this survey will be reported in an upcoming edition of this newsletter.



A Handbook for School Community Councils and Principals



This handbook was published by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) and was "designed to support the ongoing development of School Community Councils." Since the handbook quite lengthy, only one copy has been provided for each School Community Council. However, the whole handbook is available on line at the school division web site (www.srsd119.ca) or from the SSBA web site (saskschoolboards.ca). Members of School Community Councils are urged to review this handbook from time to time. A good way to get

started is to look at the **Table of Contents** and then read a topic that is of interest to you. If you have questions about the handbook, please contact Tom Sutherland at the Education Centre.

Two Selected Quotations from the Handbook

Chapter 3.0 The Work of Councils

“The learning community surrounds all children and youth. It is broader than the classroom and school and signals that meaningful learning occurs in all aspects of school and community life. Learning is not restricted to lessons in a school environment, but also takes place in family and community interactions on a daily basis. Schools and communities must seek opportunities to support and foster this larger learning community to broaden the range of programs and services that meet the needs of all children and youth.” *Ministry of Education (Page 29 of the Handbook)*

Chapter 4.0 Assessing Progress

Examples of questions that might guide School Community Council self-assessment:

- **Membership:** Is the Council reasonably representative of the student composition of the school? Are the interests of all parents voiced as decisions and plans are made?
 - **Internal Council Functioning:** Are Council meetings well attended? Do all Members express satisfaction with their involvement? Is the Council able to resolve difficult issues?
 - **Inclusion and Communication:** Does the Council include the larger community in its work? Do parents and community members ask for time to make presentations to or meet with the Council? Are parents aware of the Learning Improvement Plan?
 - **Gathering Support:** Has the Council compiled a profile of community resources that could contribute to learning improvement? What resources have been made available to parents as they support their own children’s learning?
- (Page 63 of the Handbook)*



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This newsletter is distributed to each School Community Council in the school division, members of the Board of Education, Education Centre and school-based Administration, the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils and the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.