



Rainy River District School Board

# Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter

Fall 2013

## Welcome to the fall 2013 RRDSB PIC Newsletter!

**What is the Parent Involvement Committee's purpose?** As members of the RRDSB Parent Involvement Committee, we are here to support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent involvement across the District to support student success.

The 2013-2014 Parent Involvement Committee Members are:

- ◆ Leslie Danielson - Co-Chair & Parent Representative, J. W. Walker School
- ◆ Bridget McGinnis - Co-Chair & Parent Representative, Crossroads School
- ◆ Dianne McCormack - Trustee Representative
- ◆ Lonna Oster - Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words
- ◆ Janice Gagne - Community Representative, Kenora-Rainy River Child & Family Services
- ◆ Rhonda Spuzak - Parent Representative, Fort Frances High School
- ◆ Char Bliss - Parent Representative, J. W. Walker School
- ◆ Gabrielle Langlais - Parent Representative, Rainy River High School
- ◆ Jennifer Learning - Parent Representative, North Star Community School
- ◆ Kirsty Sinclair - Parent Representative, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program
- ◆ Steve Sinclair - Parent Representative, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program
- ◆ Tara Jerry - Parent Representative, Crossroads School
- ◆ Toey Bone - Parent Representative, Robert Moore School
- ◆ Heather Campbell - Director of Education
- ◆ Kendall Olsen - Principal, Sturgeon Creek School/Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program/Nestor Falls School
- ◆ Owen Johnston - Teacher Representative, Fort Frances High School
- ◆ Sharla MacKinnon - Teacher Representative, Elementary Numeracy Facilitator



### RRDSB Parent Involvement Committee

Volume 2, Issue 1  
Fall 2013

#### Next meeting:

November 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.  
Education Centre  
Fort Frances

#### Upcoming School Council Meetings:

(For schools not listed below, please contact the principal.)

- Crossroads—November 12, 5:00 p.m.
- Donald Young—November 18, 7:00 p.m.
- J.W. Walker—November 12, 6:30
- Mine Centre—November 13, 3:00 p.m.
- North Star—November 14, 7:00 p.m.
- Riverview—November 18, 4:30 p.m.
- Robert Moore—November 26, 6:30 p.m.
- Sturgeon Creek—October 30, 6:30 p.m.
- Atikokan High—November 18, 7:00 p.m.
- Fort Frances High—November 26, 6:30 p.m.
- Rainy River High—November 18, 4:30 p.m.

## Family Math Workshops planned for 2013-2014



The May 2013 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application received funding approval of \$18,500, which will be used in 2013-2014 to hold family math workshops designed to encourage building parent skills that support learning math at home. Workshops are planned for several locations across the District.

Parents are encouraged to watch their school's newsletters, and visit their school's or the Board's website for further details on upcoming Math Workshops. All family members are welcome to attend these fun and exciting learning events.

### Check out these websites:

[www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/)  
Interactive Story Starter

<http://www.wegivebooks.com>  
We Give Books offers free online versions

[www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org)  
The scoop on the latest entertainment and tech so YOU can decide what's right for YOUR kid

[www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)  
Free high-quality math games

<http://wonderopolis.org>  
Kid-friendly detailed questions and answers

<https://homeworkhelp.iic.org>  
Math help for Grades 7 to 10

[www.tvokids.com](http://www.tvokids.com)  
Free educational games for kids aged 2-11

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)  
Educational videos offering complete curricula

*"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

## Tips to support your child in Early Learning Kindergarten



Here are some simple ways you can help your child make the most of Full-Fay Kindergarten:

- \* Continue to make learning a regular activity by reading and playing games with your children as these activities support learning in the home.
- \* Show an interest in your child's learning - ask your child about his or her school day and make school and learning an important part of family conversation. Examples include:
  - \* Ask specific questions about what your child learned or did during the day. Ask about special events and visitors in the class. Who was it? What did they talk about? What did they bring with them?
  - \* "I saw the picture you did hanging on the bulletin board in your classroom. Tell me about how you made it. How did you decide what to draw?"
- \* Attend information meetings and other events organized for parents and families.

Talk to the educator team about ways you can support your child at home every day. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's school experience, the educator team—teacher, Early Childhood Educator, Principal—is available to assist you.

## School Council – Frequently Asked Questions

### Purpose

School councils play an important role in student success. They encourage a strong partnership between the school and the family and help parents become actively involved in the education of their children. School councils help good schools become better.

### School councils are expected to:

- \* Advise the principal and, where appropriate, the Board
- \* Place the interests of all students first
- \* Support the Board and school's improvement planning goals
- \* Encourage parent and community involvement in the educational system
- \* Promote positive attitudes towards public education

### Who can be a member of school council?

Parents or guardians of students enrolled at the school may be a member of the school council.

## Tips for a successful transition from Grade 8 to Grade 9

Get ready for what just could be the most exciting and important years for your child . . . high school. Parents can expect that high school

- ♦ Provides more courses and programs for your child to choose from;
- ♦ Has a greater emphasis on career pathways;
- ♦ Can mean meeting new friends;
- ♦ Offers additional extra-curricular and social opportunities;
- ♦ Promotes increased independence and responsibility;
- ♦ Requires a greater need for organization and time management.

### Helping Your Child Prepare for High School

**Educate Yourself.** Find out the requirements, choices, and processes

involved in planning your teen's high school program by exploring the course selection guide. Your teen will need your assistance and advice.

**Establish routines.** The high school semester means fewer daily subjects for your teenager, but a more intensive focus within a shorter time period to achieve the course expectations. Ensure that homework routines are established and that your teen works to balance the busier schedule of school, extra-curricular, employment, and their own time.

**Prepare.** Call and/or meet with the school administration and Guidance Department and check out each school's website for the course descriptions, extra-curricular opportunities and copies of school handbooks, and student fees.

## School Council recruitment tips

Effective school councils are continually seeking responsible volunteers. Some strategies for consideration are as follows:

- Ensure a welcoming and open school environment
- Invite interested parents to participate, volunteer, attend a council meeting
- Encourage participation from various and diverse cultural groups in your school community
- Host an information/get involved event and share council accomplishments, issues being worked on etc.

- Publicize council's activities via e-mail, newsletter message, brochures, etc.
- Provide a list of meeting dates for the coming year
- Provide information on elections, bylaws, decision making and conflict resolution process
- Establish childcare services to assist parents with council attendance
- Be explicit about whether participation on committees is expected
- Reach out to companies that encourage their employees to be involved in community related volunteerism

### How to Get Involved?

Check your child's newsletter for upcoming meetings.

Contact the principal or vice principal to find out the next meeting date.

Ask a school council member for more information.

For links to school websites, parent resources, the latest news, upcoming school activities and more, visit the Board website at: [www.rrdsb.com](http://www.rrdsb.com).

