



Rainy River District School Board

Parent Involvement Committee Newsletter

Spring 2013

Welcome to the first edition of the 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 2012-2013 Parent Involvement Committee Members are:

- ◆ Leslie Danielson - Co-Chair & Parent Representative, J. W. Walker School
- ◆ Rhonda Spuzak - Co-Chair & Parent Representative, J. W. Walker School
- ◆ Dianne McCormack - Trustee Representative
- ◆ Lonna Oster - Community Representative, Northwestern Health Unit, North Words
- ◆ Janice Gagne - Community Representative, Kenora-Rainy River Child & Family Services
- ◆ Char Bliss - Parent Representative, J. W. Walker School
- ◆ Gabrielle Langlais - Parent Representative, Rainy River High School
- ◆ Jennifer Learning - Parent Representative, North Star Community School
- ◆ Trish Neilson - Parent Representative, Sturgeon Creek School
- ◆ Kirsty Sinclair - Parent Representative, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program
- ◆ Steve Sinclair - Parent Representative, Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program
- ◆ Jessica Tucker - Parent Representative, Crossroads School
- ◆ Heather Campbell - Director of Education
- ◆ Kendall Olsen - Principal, Sturgeon Creek School/Sturgeon Creek Alternative Program
- ◆ Owen Johnston - Teacher Representative, Fort Frances High School
- ◆ Kelly Forbes - Teacher Representative, Crossroads School

February/March 2013 survey results

Parents of students in JK/SK/Early Learning were invited to complete a short survey to gain feedback on the transition process into school. Similarly, the transition into high school is a big step for students. A survey was shared with parents of students in Grade 9 and 10, in order to review the information that parents receive in this transition process.

The survey responses were shared with the school administrators in March to identify best practices and to align transitioning for both our Early Learners as well as our

Grade 8 students across the District. A transition into high school resource is currently being developed as well as the registration process including school tours for Early Learners is being revised for the 2013/14 school year.



What is parent engagement?

It is important to recognize that parent engagement takes many forms.

- serving on school councils or the Parent Involvement Committee;
- volunteering for field trips and school activities;
- making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework;
- helping with homework;
- meeting with teachers;
- talking to your child about their day at school.

RRDSB Parent Involvement Committee

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Next meeting:

Sept. 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Education Centre
Fort Frances

Check out these websites :

www.tvoparents.tv.org/teacherzone
Helping parents help their kids succeed in school and in life

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

www.common sense media.org
The scoop on the latest entertainment and tech so YOU can decide what's right for YOUR kid

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

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 less courses 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.



Take a Moment to Listen Today

Listen to their problems, listen to their needs

Praise their smallest triumphs,
Praise their smallest deeds;

Tolerate their chatter, amplify their laughter,

Find out what's the matter, Find out what they're after.

We asked community organizations to share their successful school partnership activities

We wanted to hear from our partners to find out what is happening in our communities and the **Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) in Rainy River** had many successful school partnership activities to share.

The PALS (playground activity leaders in schools) program is thriving at Riverview School this year. PALS is a child leadership initiative to reduce bullying through physical activity. Older students are trained to lead active games sessions with younger students, during daily scheduled recess.

The HCC (Healthy Communities Coalition) holds regular planning meetings at the Rainy River High School and encourages student representation.

The TCAN (Tobacco control area network) youth engagement aimed at reducing tobacco use, is currently in progress.

The Rainy River NWHU Health Coalition often submits a **Community Use of Schools Permit**. Open gym night was the most recent activity.

The Student Nutrition Program along with the School Food and Beverage Policy is supported and on-going.

The ASP (After School Program) funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is presently being offered at Riverview School. The strategy is focused on supporting comprehensive after school programming in specific priority neighborhoods where school-aged residents can benefit from new and enhanced programs focused on physical activity, healthy eating and nutrition, wellness and personal health education.

Visit of David Bouchard sponsored by the RRDSB PIC

One of the 2012-2013 school year activities planned by the RRDSB PIC was the visit of David Bouchard to the Rainy River District School Board. During the week of September 17, 2012, David Bouchard, Order of Canada recipient and Métis author, educator, and public speaker, visited our schools and spoke at public sessions held in Atikokan, Mine Centre, Fort Frances, and Rainy River. In speaking to parents, David emphasized the importance of parent support, interest and involvement in children's education, especially with respect to developing literacy.



David Bouchard visits the Rainy River District School Board.

For links to school websites, parent resources, the latest news, upcoming school activities and more, visit the Board website at:

www.rrdsb.com.

Get the weekly upcoming school activities list and event highlights delivered to your News Feed:

