



PAC News

Deep Cove Elementary School / École Deep Cove

January 2009

Co-president Report

Well, we all know already that the Christmas Fair was a colossal success. How do we know? Because so many kids tell us so often how much fun they had (and that, of course, is the most important reason for putting on the fair!). Other telltale signs of success are newbie parent reports that they were “absolutely blown away” by the spectacle and the number of students attending who no longer attend Deep Cove but who keep on coming back to enjoy the fair along with their parents, grandparents, friends, etc. The last sign of success is the financial report and the preliminary report looks great ... stay tuned at the PAC Annual General Meeting for the final numbers. Congratulations to all of us at the school and in the Deep Cove community for pulling together to put on this wonderful event yet again! Next year will be the 30th anniversary of the Deep Cove Christmas Fair. Can you believe it?!!

January was a busy month. Carnival was celebrated in style with the arrival of the Maple Man. This year, a collection of ice castles were built instead of one giant one. The kids are enjoying learning hip-hop with Dansko. Deep Cove, as always, is humming.

February looks to be just as interesting and lively. Early on, those tiny kindergarten registrants will get signed up for September by their parents. Don't forget to set aside the evening of Wednesday, February 4th for the first Parent Education talk on Internet Safety. See page 2 for details. Our annual Jump Rope for Heart event is this month as well.

Preparations for the PAC Annual General Meeting on February 18th are well underway. The budget is being prepared and parents are weighing the pros and cons of running for an exec position. Have you thought about running for a position? It is a great way to really get to know your child's school and to participate in a meaningful way in the school community.

The PAC executive is looking forward to meeting with the rest of the membership at the AGM. Do consider attending.

Cheers,

Christine and Karen

PAC Election, February 18th, 2009

It is time again for the PAC to elect its executive committee. Several parents have indicated their intention to run (see the table below for candidates). We also have a couple of positions which have candidates that are seriously considering running but haven't made a final decision yet. **Remember, ALL positions are open for nominations and that you may nominate yourself or another person even if a parent has already indicated their intention to run for that position.** That is what an election is about after all!

If you have questions about the executive positions and their functions, please ask. Any one of the current executive would be happy to answer your questions.

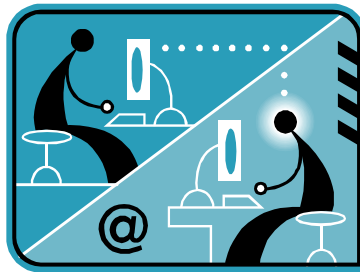
Position	Candidate(s) for 2009/10
Co-presidents	Karen Gartside Chris Swain
Treasurer	Tara Houle
Secretary	
Associate: Parent Education	
Associate: Newsletter Editor	
Associate: Special Events	Martine Lunke
Associate: Director at Large	
COPACS Delegate	Grace Owen

In addition to the 9 elected positions, the PAC executive committee includes 2 non-elected (and non-voting) members. The position of past president (or past co-president) is filled by an outgoing pres (or co-pres). This year, Christine Kenwood will replace Lisa Coulson as past co-president. The role of the past co-pres is primarily to help smooth the transition from the previous to the new executive committee. The Canadian Parents for French (CPF) representative is elected by CPF in May of each year. The rep attends PAC and CPF meetings and acts as a liaison between the two organizations.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Internet Safety Parent Ed Evening – February 4 @ 7pm
 PAC AGM & Election – February 18 @ 7pm
 Lesotho Pap & Beans Lunch – February 24
 Next COPACs Meeting: February 5 @ 7pm
 Thank you card get together: February 1 @ 1-4pm
 Hot Lunch – January 30

Deep Cove PAC presents



Internet Safety for your Children

Wednesday, February 4th, 2009 at 7pm

Deep Cove School Mini Gym



Guest Speakers:

Cpl. Tom Guineau - RCMP
Integrated Technological Crime Unit
Cst. Roz Guineau - RCMP
Sidney North Saanich Detachment

Christmas Fair Thank vous

The Christmas Fair committee would like to thank the Deep Cove PAC executive, PAC members, staff, and the community for the enormous amount of moral support, encouragement, and enthusiasm extended to the committee throughout the preamble to the Fair and the fair itself. It makes it easier and more fun when one's work is appreciated!

We owe the venue coordinators and volunteers an enormous thank you. The fair gets turned over to you on fair night and you are "where the rubber hits the road", as they say. That means YOU were responsible for all those smiles, and the excitement, and the joy that emanated from all those kids on fair night! Congrats!

How are we thanking all our generous donors? This Sunday, February 1st, there is a thank you card writing party scheduled for 1-4 pm. Are thank yous important to you and would you like to help out? If you would like to help, please call Christine at 250-656-1349 for details about the location. Kids are welcome and snacks will be provided.



Did you know...

All of our students are participating in dance session led by instructors from Dansko. These sessions are happening in January and the first part of February and have been generously provided by the Deep Cove Pac. On February 10 and 11 you are invited to come and watch your child/children during one of their final classes. Stay tuned for more information.

Lesotho Updates

The latest news is that Motati school is being rebuilt and the work is near completion. This winter, the children will finally be able to have adequate shelter as they study. This has been such a long time coming and their joy is unbelievable. Peg Herbert is in Lesotho until February and she is planning to visit Motati School, so we should receive more news and pictures soon. With our fundraising efforts, we can help them acquire the stoves, desks, chairs, gardening and school supplies that they now badly need.

Here is how we can all help:

Birthday Invitation Packages

This is a new initiative and we hope that it will encourage many students to directly help the children of Motati School.

Parents can buy birthday party packages including 10 invitations and 2 cards. The child selects which two invitees will receive the cards. The card requests that the child/parent forgo giving a birthday present and instead make a donation to Help Lesotho. The invitations have this lovely Basotho drawing made by Deep Cove alumni Annina Lorenzo. Packages are \$10 and all profits above the printing cost will go to Help Lesotho as well. A sample card is displayed on the Lesotho Board at school. To order a package, please contact Martine Lunke (martinelunke@uniserve.com; 656-5658)



Book Sales

We still have many copies of the book "Ryan's Well" left after the Christmas Fair. This is an excellent book for the intermediate reader, or a book to read and discuss with your child. They are \$10 each and will be for sale at the French Book Fair on the week before the Spring Break, or simply send Martine an e-mail. If you would like to help us sell some books, either at your business or church or at another group, please talk with Martine as well to make arrangements.

Bracelets from the bead club

Students from the grades 4 and 5 have been meeting at big recess to make wire and bead bracelets for Motati School. Look for them at the school office, at the book fair or at other special events.

Did you know that since we first started supporting Motati School at the 2006 Christmas Fair, we have collectively raised just over \$10,000, including \$2,494 at the last Christmas Fair? We would like to send a very big

THANK YOU

to all those who have helped us along the way: the children and teachers who made crafts, the parents who bought them, the volunteers who have helped organize and run our fundraising events, the generous people who have given us valuable things to sell, and most of all the children who have been moved to help in their own ways.

The Lesotho Pap & Beans lunch will be held on Tuesday February 24. We will need many volunteers to help cook batches of pap and help serve them in the classroom. Please contact Martine Lunke (martinelunke@uniserve.com) to volunteer.

Visit our website www.deepcovepac.ca

January 21st PAC General Meeting

Thank you to all the PAC members who attended the last meeting, it really stood out as one of our more lively sessions! Some serious concerns emerged about parking issues at the school. Our lots are proving to be treacherous to cars and really, it is only a matter of time until a person gets injured. Let's pull up our socks in that department before a desperate parent submits a Special Funding Request for a part-time by-law enforcement officer!!!

Our principal, Rob Carere, delivered a succinct description of the many issues surrounding the Foundation Skills Assessment and answered parents' questions. Our treasurer, Tara, gave the preliminary financial results of the Christmas Fair which kicked off a great discussion of Fairs, past, present, and future. A terrific idea (thanks Cathy Van Wyk) that will be undertaken next year is to have a wandering photographer. Pictures will make a wonderful record of the event and can be used by the Grade 5 yearbook committee as well as for preparing an info package about the fair for incoming parents.

Each fair, wonderful though it is, is never perfect. What was observed about the fair was that, over the 30 years of its existence, a winning formula has been developed! Venues come (this year was the first Musical Petting Zoo) and venues go (Nail Care went (fun, but too slow moving and labour intensive)). The tweaking of the fair formula is an ongoing endeavour. Thank you to all for sharing your ideas!

- ❖ Did you know that COPACS meetings are open to the general public? The meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the District Resource Centre.
- ❖ We are looking for photos of our Christmas Fair – if you happen to have any, please forward to Christine Kenwood
c.kenwood@shaw.ca

A parking joke ...

A woman pulled into a crowded parking lot, parked, and got out of the car, leaving her dog in the back seat. The dog was all stretched out and the woman wanted to impress upon him that he must remain there. She walked toward the curb backward, pointing her finger and saying emphatically, "Now you stay. Do you hear me? Stay!"

The driver of a nearby car gave her a quizzical look. "I don't know about you, lady," he said incredulously. "But I usually just put my car in park."



Parking is NO joke when ...

A bunch of busy, late parents (that is, all of us!) try to get their kids to school on time and the school's two parking lots (as well as Clayton and W. Saanich Roads) turn into a real life bumper car session!

It came to light at the last general PAC meeting that several people's cars have been hit (some not for the first time) and there have been several potentially dangerous situations involving children and cars. Many of these situations have been caused by people ignoring the "no parking" signs or behaving irresponsibly in the drop off zones and around school buses.

The parking lots and roads are shared public spaces and, supposedly, they are child-friendly public spaces. Do we have to wait for a tragedy to change?
We can do better.

Please obey the standard rules of the road and parking lot and reconsider whether you really need to stop right at the school doors. Clayton and the back parking lot are a zoo in the mornings and at pick up time. It may take you less time to park on Wain Rd and walk down the sidewalk to school.