

PAC News

Deep Cove Elementary School / École Deep Cove



Newsletter Issue - March 2010

Message From the Presidents

Our Annual General Meeting has taken place and among other topics, we sorted out those minor agenda items like the PAC Executive elections and the 2010 - 2011 operating budget. Dennis Powell, Transportation Director for the School District was present at the meeting. He answered a number of questions about school bus related matters. Thank you to Dennis for taking the time to come and listen to our concerns. We also need to thank our outgoing Executive members for working so hard on behalf of the school for the last several years. Karen Gartside, Cindy Greenway, and Tara Houle are all stepping down from the Executive. Their commitment and energy will be missed. The new Executive looks fairly similar, however, we are still in need of some volunteers, especially to assist all of us with the Treasurer duties. The Special Events Coordinator position is also still vacant. For those of you that may have interests in these areas please do not hesitate to speak with a PAC Executive member or school administration. We want to welcome Lesley McLaughlin to the Executive, and we look forward to working with all of you, and hearing from you at the meetings during the coming months.

– Chris Swain & Suzanne Demers

Your New Executive

Co-Presidents: Chris Swain and Suzanne Demers

Treasurer: Position Available

Secretary: Julie Newman

COPACS rep: Martine Lunke

Parent Education: Grace Owen

Special Events Coordinator: Position Available

Christmas Fair Rep: Lesley McLaughlin

Past President: Karen Gartside

Your **CPF reps** on PAC are: Lisa Coulson, Susan Fidyk and Vik Peck

Upcoming Dates

- Way to Go Walk - **March 5**
- Spring Break - **March 8 – 12**
- Non-Instructional Day - **March 15**
- Hot Lunch Day - **March 26**

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**Please remember
when you buy gas
or groceries at any
Peninsula Co-op,
use the Deep Cove
number, 18125.**

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You From the Schoenrank Family!!!



Together, our community raised over \$1700 for the purchase of a computer for our friend Elise Schoenrank. Elise loves her new computer (as you can see in the photo) and uses it often while recovering in hospital and at home. The Schoenrank family are overwhelmed by the generosity of the Deep Cove School community, and are proud and grateful for having been a part of it. They send everyone their sincerest thanks.

Hot Lunch Coordinator Urgently Needed

Do you enjoy having one Friday a month where you do not have to think about what to pack for lunch?

Do your children enjoy having a hot lunch at school once a month?

Did you know that we are in danger of not having a hot lunch program next year?

Our current Hot Lunch Coordinator Michelle Bohnet will not be able to continue as our Hot Lunch Coordinator next year and is urgently looking for someone to train up to take over this job. Michelle has a well organized system that runs really smoothly and would love to be able to hand this over to an individual or team of individuals. We have an opportunity to take advantage of Michelle's expertise and experience this year but after June, Michelle will not be available to help out.

If you are interested in taking on or sharing the role of Hot Lunch Coordinator or would like more information please contact Karen Gartside at karen.gartside@shaw.ca.

If we do not have anyone to coordinate this program next year it will not continue.

PAC Treasurer Position Needs to be Filled

It's been my pleasure to serve as PAC Treasurer these past 2 years. I've enjoyed getting to know the teachers, administration, my fellow Executive members, dozens of parents, and most importantly, the students here at Deep Cove School. I've enjoyed working alongside many wonderful people.

As I am directing my energies into other areas next year, I am respectfully stepping down as PAC Treasurer and would like to offer this opportunity to you, the Membership, to consider stepping forward to fill this role. It's a way of giving back to this terrific school, and to the many hardworking people who make it such a wonderful place for our kids to learn and play at the same time. I am willing to help the new PAC Treasurer in any way that I can.

If you are interested in this position, I would encourage any inquiries, and be assured that no financial experience is necessary (Heck, I'm an Arts Grad!). You can reach me via email: [houley@shaw.ca](mailto:houle@shaw.ca)

Thank you for allowing me to get to know your kids and the excellent people who work with them at our school.

– Tara Houle

Special Funding Requests: Proposal for one time Special Funding Budget to a maximum of \$15,000 to be approved at the April General Meeting.

Usually, we take special funding requests in October, using money set aside in the operating budget. These requests are made by staff, administration and parents and cover so many different areas including technology, curriculum, programming, supplies, field trips, transportation and equipment.

We happen to be in a very unique position, in that we have extra money in the account that most feel should be spent on the school. This money has accumulated over the last several years and would not be spent as part of our proposed operating budget for the year. In addition we already have a "rainy day fund" GIC in place in case we were unable to run a Christmas Fair or were to experience some other type of emergency.

After consultation with Administration and the Executive, it was approved in principal at the AGM that another set of Special Funding Requests take place this spring, to a maximum of \$15,000.00, to be approved at the April General meeting. This will allow all of us to present ideas for spending to a general meeting to discuss and be voted on. We couldn't vote on it without posting it first, thus it just in principal right now.

In the meantime, put on your thinking cap and see if we can come up with some ideas that will remain with the school long after we move on, and ones that our kids will benefit from right now.

More information on Special Funding Requests and the request forms are available on the PAC Website.

"Way to Go" Deep Cove 2010

Our next **Way to Go Deep Cove Event** is scheduled for **Friday, March 5th, 2010**. We thought we would celebrate our Canadian Olympic Athletes and come dressed in your best Canada attire. Let's show our athletes how active we can be and aim to beat 75% participation.

Mr. Winkler's class had the greatest participation for the *Jingle Bell* Walk To School Event and won the honor of hosting the Golden Shoe Award.

Meet the Canadian Athlete Bus leaving Denham Till Park (on Birch Road) at 8:15 am. At the park you will meet Shelley Rebneris and Leslie MacLaughlin. The route is to walk or bike through the trails at Denham Till Park to Clayton Rd. and up Clayton Rd. to the crosswalk in front of the Deep Cove School.

We are asking that parents come prepared to walk or bike with their children to the school so we ensure SAFETY of our children. To keep things simple for this event we are going to have only one location to walk or bike from.

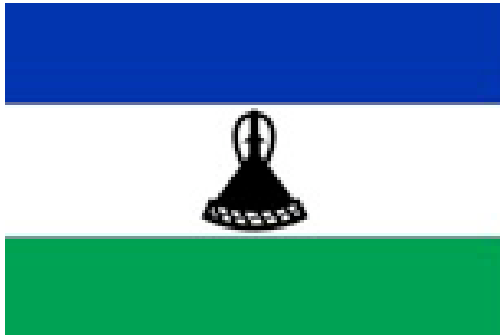
We will plan to arrive at the school at about 8:30 am. The *Way to Go* Committee will be completing a survey of children who participate in the walking school bus and to those who ride the bus, carpool, and walk or cycle to school along their own route. The class with the greatest participation will win the honor of hosting the Golden Shoe Award until our next *Way to Go* event.

If you would be available to help with this event please contact the *Way to Go* Committee at rsrebneris@shaw.ca

Cheers, and bring your Canadian Flags!

– Shelley Rebneris, Leslie MacLaughlin, Laurie Irwin, Nia Kings
The *Way to Go* Deep Cove Committee

Lesotho Pap & Beans Lunch



School lunch will be a bit different on Friday, March 5. Your children will have the opportunity to eat a Lesotho-style school lunch of pap and beans. Pap is made with ground white corn and is a staple food in Lesotho. It is filling but not very nutritious. Pap is usually accompanied by vegetables or beans. The children in our twin school in Lesotho eat pap most days at school. For some, it is the only meal they get in the day and a good reason to keep coming to school. This is the third year that we are cooking pap for the entire Deep Cove School. Some children have grown quite fond of it (others not so much), but trying this simple meal helps them relate to their friends at Motati School.

Needless to say, cooking and serving a meal for 400 is a big undertaking and we are still looking for volunteers who could come on that day from 11:00 to 12:10 and help us serve the food in the classrooms. If you can help, please contact Martine at martinelunke@shaw.ca.

Petition to Reinstate Gaming Funds for Charitable Organizations

As you probably know, the government is planning to redistribute Gaming funds that were previously earmarked for charities into general revenue. Charities accomplish much with little and these changes, if they go through, will result in devastating budget shortfalls threatening not only the amount of work that can be achieved by charities but even the existence of many charities. If you would like to voice your concern about changes to charitable funding, please sign the petition at the link below.

www.PetitionOnline.com/VCBS2010/

2010-2011 PAC Operating Budget

After being posted in the school and emailed out, the 2010-2011 operating budget for PAC was presented at the February AGM. It was approved with only one minor increase to the Grade 5 year-end spending. The PAC Executive has worked diligently with school administration and also amongst ourselves, to present a budget that more accurately reflects what we spend every year.

Staff Appreciation Day

Staff Appreciation Day is on April 22 this year. This is just a reminder that your class reps will be contacting you to organize something special for the hard workers in your child's class. As a class, we encourage you to engage the kids somehow and create something unique for the teachers and assistants. Every year we use PAC funds to buy the teachers something nice as a group. Put on your creative hats and speak with your class reps. The projects are brought to the April 21 PAC meeting, then distributed for the next morning (kind of like Christmas!)

Please check the Lost and Found for any missing items.