

MINUTES



Homma PAC Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Virtual - Meeting link will be shared on the Homma website and Homma PAC Community Facebook group

In Attendance 11: Admin (Derek Cherry and Ginny Lee); Anna R; Jarrod C; Jennifer T; Corrine H; Miranda D; Jenn G; Carla D; Penny L; Nabeela N

Please send agenda items or questions to contacthommapac@gmail.com

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
6:30 to 6:45 PM	Update from the PAC Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Land Acknowledgement from Anna <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes from September 2023 meeting Approved from Anna and seconded by Corrine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of agenda• Approval of this list of items to become our agenda Approved from Jen T and Seconded by Jen G	Jarrod Connolly Anna R
6:45 to 7:05 PM	Update from the Homma School Admin Team Homma PAC School Administration Monthly Report 1. <u>Learning Updates and Written Updates</u> This week families will have an opportunity to connect with their child's classroom teacher to learn about progress in literacy, numeracy, and social/emotional learning. This is a great opportunity to discuss learning goals for the remainder of the term as well as celebrate the successes so far. Your child's classroom teacher is your best source of information about how your child is doing. You are welcome to reach out to them throughout the year. Learning updates (formerly known as Parent Teacher Conferences) will occur again in February. The first written update will be provided to families in December. The written update will provide information about proficiency in subject areas as well as next steps in learning. Comments will be strength-based and personalized and will capture the learning from the first term. This year, we will be asking families to access their child's written update on MyEd. Many schools have already made this transition. The Richmond School District has encouraged us to move to paperless written updates to reduce our carbon footprint and to provide families with immediate access to their child's records. For families who would like a paper copy of the written update, they may e-mail the office to request a copy. 2. <u>School Wide Events and Activities</u> a. <u>Halloween Plans</u>	Derek Cherry Ginny Lee

Like last year, we are asking students to bring in one hollowed out (from the bottom) pumpkin to carve with their buddy class. Pumpkins can be brought in on Monday, October 30th and Tuesday, October 31st. A notice was sent home today with details about the event.

Pumpkin carving schedule:

9:15 – 10:00 – Division 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16 and 22

10:30 – 11:10 – Division 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14, 20 and 21

11:10 – 11:50 – Division 2, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 23

[PAC will provide hot chocolate at the carving event. No knives to be sent in, please send pumpkin carving kits instead.](#)

The McMath Leadership Team will be collecting pre-packaged candy and warm clothing (gloves, scarves and new socks) for The Good Shepherd Ministry for those living on the downtown east side. Bins to collect these items will be found at the office.

b. Remembrance Day Assembly

We will be putting together a Remembrance Day Assembly again this year. This year assembly will be on Friday, November 10th and will include class presentations, videos, and a special wreath presentation. If there are any veterans that would like to participate, please e-mail Mr. Cherry at dcherry@sd38.bc.ca.

c. Volleyball, Fun Run and Running Club Updates

Volleyball season is in full swing now (we have over 50 students playing) with teams starting to play games against other schools as we as weekly practices. The players are improving quickly, having fun, and trying their best. Volleyball at the Elementary School level is an introduction to the sport with an emphasis on inclusion, fair play, learning the game and most importantly having fun. A big thank you goes out to all the parents and family members who are helping with rides. We would not be able to get players to games without your help.

Also, congratulations to all our Fun Run participants who did an amazing job during the event. They tried their best, had fun and represented the school in a positive way. Even with the rain falling, they still had a positive attitude and made the best out of the experience. Thank you to Mme. Bugden and Ms. Kerr for helping with the event and to Ms. Szelagowicz for dropping off the tent. Thank you to all our families for driving and cheering on our participants. It is wonderful to see so many students and parents out for Run Club on Wednesday mornings. Run Club will continue until December.

d. Will and Seeka Performances

The School District is providing a French cultural opportunity performance by Will from Will's Jams and Seeka from Seeka sings. They will be doing one performance for our English primary students and one performance for our French primary students, and are scheduled to perform on Nov. 16 at 9:15 am. (correction from our PAC meeting as originally we thought it would be all students) They are nationally recognized musicians and educators who both have a passion for music, languages, and childhood education. Their shared understanding of the power of music in teaching languages brought these two songwriters and parents together during the pandemic to create fun, unique, and relevant

musical resources to support French and English language learning. Born into families of educators and musicians, music has been instrumental in helping both artists become fluent in French as their second language.

e. **TC02 presentation Grades 6 and 7**

This year, as in past years, we are offering the “Taking Care of Self and Others” workshops for students in grades 6 and 7 in person at school. The workshops for elementary students called “Safer Spaces” address sexual exploitation and are designed to help students better understand how to stay safe when using apps and social media. Some of the other topics in the workshops include healthy and unhealthy relationships, digital citizenship, footprint and permanency, location and privacy settings on apps and social media platforms.

3. School Story

We have been asked by a few families about our school story at Homma and where to find information about it. If you are interested in learning more about our school wide learning focus, please go to the Homma website.

[Every school in Richmond has a school story. At Homma the school story involves 2 main themes. 1\) Literacy and 2\) Resiliency.](#)

We are currently using the EASE program (Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators) at Homma. As part of our social and emotional learning goals this year, we will be introducing students to some new strategies to help them manage everyday worries and anxieties. Some of the skills children will learn include:

- a) How to recognize their own and others’ feelings,
- b) How to calm their bodies so they can relax and focus,
- c) How to notice helpful and unhelpful self-talk,
- d) How to take small steps to face challenges.

One of our District Area counsellors is happy to come in and present about the EASE program if the parent community is interested in learning about this a little more. Please let Ginny know if you would like to organize an evening parent presentation. Meanwhile, here is a link to learn a bit more about EASE:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/child-teen-mental-health/ease> There is a section called EASE at Home which includes lessons adapted for use by parents and caregivers to support their children’s mental health across home, school and community settings. These are available in 8 different languages: <https://healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca/ease-at-home-k-7/>

4. Discussion Items

a. **Spirit Wear** – This has typically been a sale every two years. Derek will look into what they can offer and if there are minimum purchase orders required. If there is no minimum purchase required, we will do another clothing sale and add toques to the options.

b. **CPF opportunity** – The CPF has reached out to collaborate with French Immersion schools for certain French cultural events. If Homma is planning an ice-skating event this year, they have offered to sponsor a

	<p>refreshment table to provide hot chocolate and coffee to the families. They can also have Bonhomme de Neige to greet people and be available for photo taking. They are also open to ideas on other French cultural events and can sponsor up to half of the cost. Please contact Colleen Howu @ cpfrichmond@gmail.com</p> <p>c. <u>Parking – Pick up and Drop off</u> – We ask that parents please be mindful to follow the parking restrictions and signage that is posted in front of and around the school, so that we can keep all of our students safe as they walk towards the school. Derek will send out an email reminder outside of the WAAG and Derek and Ginny will go out to patrol whenever possible.</p> <p>Derek: Has seen unkind interactions between parents in the parking lots. He emphasized that we are a community, and we need to have kind actions towards each other. As a community we need to be respectful of the rules and follow the expectations and be respectful of the neighbours around the school.</p> <p>Jarrod – commented that he hasn’t seen swearing but has seen bad and unsafe driving (e.g., people backing out of school parking lot; parking in front of mailboxes and leaving their cars).</p> <p>Anna – Parking used to be really bad a few years ago. Old Principal Tanya used to stand in the front for 10 min to police cars. Anna has also noticed that the traffic behind the field has also been very bad with people leaving their cars on Westwater and not pulling over etc.</p> <p>Derek and Ginny will plan to stand outside when possible to try to increase their presence. Derek saw a child almost get hit as they were running between cars.</p> <p>Corrine – asked if we needed support we could contact the RCMP or bylaw officers.</p>	
<p>7:05 to 7:20 PM</p>	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget update <p>We are up \$528.</p> <p>Can we use gaming funds to fund hosting student leadership pizza lunch? Miranda believes we are able to use gaming funds, will ask other PAC exec to double check rules to approve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Questions <p>Derek: Will Ms. Regan get \$300 teacher bursary as a regular classroom teacher? Miranda will double check.</p> <p>Anna: Is pretty sure Ms Regan received money in past years, but will need to check if it is for the teacher amount, or the resource teacher amount.</p>	<p>Miranda Duffy</p>
<p>7:20 to 7:50 PM</p>	<p>PAC Planning and Participation Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Events - Halloween Dance ● Call for Volunteers 	<p>Corrine Haer Penny Leggo</p>

Penny: We have only 37 tickets left . Penny is requesting volunteers for end of the night and for set up. She needs more volunteers for the haunted hallway in terms of set up. A few parents have helped to build props already, but she still needs help to set up Haunted Hallway. Volunteer call NEEDED: 7 set up; 4-6 for cleaning; 7 spots for helping during the event. The DJ is booked and ready to go, all concession supplies will be at the school by tomorrow.

Corrine asked: Is there a plan to fill the volunteer roles?

Anna asked: Can McMath students can help? There was a question from a parent on the Facebook page.

Penny answered that she had messaged the parent offering help from McMath students and hadn't heard back.

Derek offered to send out a stand-alone email for a volunteer call out for the dance. PAC members greatly appreciated this.

Miranda asked: what time does set up start?

Penny answered 3-5pm.

Miranda: Offered that her Grade 8 son can help with set up. Penny said clean-up is from 730-9pm to give lots of time to clean up at the end so that volunteers are not staying too late.

- Fundraisers - Purdy's and Pub Night

Corrine:

Purdy's and Poinsettia's: Both fundraisers have been scheduled for Dec 6 for pick up. Orders to be placed online beforehand with deadline for orders on Nov 17.

Pub Night: A subcommittee reached out to local pubs for dates. 2 are on Fridays; 2 are on Thursdays. Fridays is the winner based on a poll on Facebook page. Steveston Built \$30-35 vs The Buck \$20-25 (both include burger, fries and a drink). Built has a maximum of 65 people and can start at 8pm. The Buck can start at 6pm.

Corrine put out a call to vote for Steveston Built vs The Buck. The Buck won by majority. Pub night will be held on Friday Nov 17, 2023. Details regarding ticket sales TBA.

- Communication

Corrine: Suggested a main WhatsApp Homma PAC chat for everything and then to have break off group for events; fundraising; hot lunch etc. PAC exec members would be admin on all the groups to help filter for correct information and to mediate.

Jarrod: This would work better instead of all the different streams we have going on at the moment.

	<p>Penny: There are 7 different platforms in which people are trying to contact her for the Halloween dance and pumpkin carving event. She is trying to direct them to the 1 central whatsapp platform as she is finding it difficult to field all of the questions from so many different platforms and keep track of all the volunteer responses and different questions.</p> <p>Jarrold: Is trying to work with admin to update the PAC parent page to bring up FAQ's and refresh links to things that we have documents for, but have gotten lost online over the years. Jarrold is suggesting we edit the parent page and for the PAC to take ownership of it.</p> <p>Derek answered: He was unsure if tech services can send over ownership over to PAC. Jarrold said he has knowledge of how the tech end works and kindly offered to talk to tech services directly. Derek will ask tech services and get back to Jarrold.</p> <p>Jen G: There was a pub night planning group that broke off from the main fundraising group for a WhatsApp chat and Jen felt it worked well.</p> <p>Anna asked if it was easier to promote Facebook as the main platform to try to help centralize communication?</p> <p>Penny asked if can we put a link to the WhatsApp group in the Facebook group? Corrine answered yes.</p> <p>Corrine volunteered to do the work of setting up a main PAC group and importing everyone to the different break out groups.</p> <p>Penny: asked for a discussion outside of the PAC meeting to organize this.</p> <p>Penny: Gets many different streams of people trying to connect with her and is finding it challenging to filter through it all and sometimes volunteer requests get missed. She supports centralizing communication.</p> <p>Corrine: Will move everyone to the main Whatsapp group AFTER the Halloween dance.</p> <p>Jarrold: Will try to centralize the communication overall.</p>	
<p>7:50 to 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Other business and questions</p> <p>Jarrold: Asked if there are further questions or topics anyone wants to discuss. No one responded in the chat or verbally.</p> <p>Jarrold motioned to end the meeting. Corrine approved; Jen G seconded.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm</p> <p>Next PAC meeting: Wednesday Nov 22, 2023 6:30-8:00pm</p>	<p>All</p>

Homma PAC Executive:

- Jarrod Connolly, Chair
- Corrine Haer, Vice-Chair
- Miranda Duffy, Treasurer
- Jennifer Tham, Secretary

Next Homma PAC Meeting: Wednesday, November 22, 6:30-8:00 pm