Council Chairs’ Report
The York Region District School Board began the new year with a School Councils Report - Year in Review 2001/2002, at the Board Standing Committee meeting on Jan 13th. This report can be viewed on the Board web site (URL on next page).

Responses from the School Councils across York Region indicate the future objectives are to expand parental involvement in council meetings, support school based curriculum programs and activities, provide more parent information nights, improve communication and fundraising. To mirror these objectives, the school council Special Events/Communications Committee would like to invite parents to a monthly Wednesday morning coffee meeting from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the school lunchroom on the following dates: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 28 and June 18. Please join us to informally discuss school-related concerns and activities.

Milk Program
Many schools run a milk program in order to offer a healthy drink alternative to their students. You may have noted from other newsletters that some parents at Highview are interested in starting such a program but, in order to do so, there is a need for more volunteers to offer to help with the preparation and distribution to the classrooms. To date there are only a handful of volunteers that have come forward and thus this initiative could be in jeopardy. If you are able to help out, please contact Maggie Karjala at (905)841-9687 or email us at hvsc@luscher.com.

Funding Requests
In the December Council Newsletter, we informed you of the initial funding decisions that were made based on requests to council from teachers and school administration. While there is already a long list of other requests still up for consideration, it is not too late for parents to have a voice in how remaining council funds should be dispersed. If you can identify something requiring funding that would benefit the students at Highview, please bring it forward. Requisition forms can be picked up through the school office, by contacting one of the council members or by sending in the idea by email to hvsc@luscher.com. Please include a cost estimate, your name and contact information.

At last week’s school council meeting, additional funds of approx. $1900 were approved for the Red Maple/Silver Birch school library program. Also a supplier of used computer tables, at a cost of $30 per table, was located to provide us with much needed computer tables. School council will be reviewing all outstanding funds requisitions prior to our next school council meeting on Feb 11, at 6:30p.m. We are still hopeful that the parent community may be able to assist with the following items: portable CD players, peripheral equipment such as computer printers, wood and hammer to build an additional drying rack for Kindergarten artwork.

How else can you help?
Other ways to help out or get involved ...
- attend council meetings once a month
- share your experience and knowledge - offer to present a pertinent topic at a council meeting
- help out on a council subcommittee
- make a contribution to the council newsletter
Please note: there is still a desperate need for additional lunch monitors, in particular on Wednesdays, as well as float lunchtime assistants to cover for absences. Winter brings an additional requirement for lunch time supervision, for safety reasons, given such factors as icy conditions and sledding on the hills at the back of the playground. The Board recommended ratio is 1:100 students and we are sometimes close to this level. Again, if you are able to help out, please notify the office staff as soon as possible. This is a paid position.

Council Information
Copies of meeting minutes (including any referenced attachments), information from the School Board and the Ministry, School Council Handbooks, promotional literature on fundraising opportunities, etc. are all filed in a cabinet in the school mailroom, next to the office. If you wish to borrow any of this material, please sign it out on the sheets provided at the front of each binder.

Also a reminder to send in your email address to hvsc@luscher.com if you wish to be added to the council distribution list to receive online copies of agendas, minutes or other important communications.

Future Council meeting dates (7:00pm Staff Lunchroom):
Feb. 11, March 18, April 8, May 13, June 10
You know you are living in the year 2003 when:
1. Your reason for not staying in touch with family is because they do not have e-mail.
2. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
3. Your grandmother asks you to send her a JPEG file of your newborn so she can create a screen saver.
4. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
5. Every commercial on television has a web site address at the bottom of the screen.
6. You buy a computer and 3 months later it’s out of date and sells for half the price you paid.
7. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn’t have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go get it.
8. Using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase would be a hassle and take planning.
9. You just tried to enter your password on the microwave.
10. You consider second-day air delivery painfully slow.
11. Your dining room table is now your flat filing cabinet.
12. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-it notes.
13. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.
14. You get an extra phone line so you can get phone calls.
15. You disconnect from the Internet and get this awful feeling, as if you just pulled the plug on a loved one.
16. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
17. You wake up at 2 AM to go to the bathroom and check your E-mail on your way back to bed.
18. You start tilting your head sideways to smile
19. You’re reading this and nodding and laughing.
20. Even worse: you know exactly who you would like to forward this to ...


Shout out!
Highview Views student’s thoughts

Toboggan Question:
Some people were asking why the heavier plastic sleds were not allowed at Highview. The simple answer is that they are not safe. They can really hurt if they hit anyone at the bottom of the hill, because they are harder. They are also not great for storage. They don’t roll up and that can be dangerous if there is a fire. So please save them for when you are with mom or dad, and only bring the flexible plastic crazy carpets.
If you aren’t sure, bring it to the office and they can tell you OK or NO WAY!
Thanks.

Other Questions:
What do you like about Highview?
The things that I like about Highview are the nice and kind people who help me learn. I also like recess!

If you have something to say, I want to know so give me a shout. If you write down your opinions, questions and thoughts along with your grade (not your name), bring it to the office and tell them it’s for Bonnie Devine, they’ll make sure it gets to me.

Also if you and your friends are doing something cool to raise money or to help someone else, tell us about it. If it’s really neat, it might even make it to the newsletter.
So shout out and have your voices heard.

Bonnie Devine

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