**June 2021 Newsletter**

***What a year!***

COVID has continued to play a big part in all of our lives this year. We have flipped back and forth between face-to-face and online learning and had to change classes to meet class size targets. All of this while things like popcorn and special food days, special activity days and assemblies have had to be put on hold.

Congratulations to parents that supported us and their children through all these changes and supported students the best they could through online learning. I know it wasn’t easy. Know that we appreciate the effort you put in and I’m sure it will pay off for your kids in the end.

Congratulations to our staff. They worked hard this year to make life as normal as we could for the kids and to try to help them feel connected to the school. They too flipped classes and teaching formats and stayed positive as they kept the kids engaged in the learning.

Congratulations to our students. I know that it wasn’t easy navigating the changes this year and hopefully next year we can move a little closer to school the way we once knew it. Thanks for showing up and for trying your best.

And last but certainly not least, Congratulations to our Graduates. This was not the year that is should have been for you, but you learned how to be successful in spite of things that the world throws at you.

Friday, June 25, students will be invited to come to the school for an hour to pick up their things and return technology. More information will be coming about this in a separate email.

***Staff Changes***

At this point in time, we know that we shall be saying goodbye to Miss Gabriel and Miss Gill who were with us on Occasional contracts. They will be leaving us in search of a full-time position with the board. Mrs. VanHooft will be returning to us from the Virtual School in September. She will be teaching Grade 3.

***Who will be my child’s teacher?***

Every year, a great deal of effort is put forth in loading next year’s classes. We try to balance each class in terms of strengths, needs and gender. We look at the learning styles of students and the teaching styles of teachers and try to match them. We also look at which combinations of students work well together in order to increase the likelihood of creating a compatible mix. The needs of the resource teacher must also be met with respect to instructional groupings. We also look at friendships and ask ourselves whether keeping certain groups of students together is counterproductive. Sometimes, it is beneficial to allow new social relationships to form. We also need to observe mandatory class sizes in the primary division, and overall Board averages in the junior and intermediate divisions. Furthermore, we do our best to ensure that no student has the same classroom teacher more than twice consecutively. Once the tentative class lists have been prepared, they are, once again, carefully examined in order to do our level best to ensure that the best possible combinations of students have been put together. Unfortunately, not every student will be as pleased with his/her placement as we would like. It is a matter of how the adults respond to this disappointment that will make the difference. We can best do this by working together co-operatively. Please know that while we will do our best to maintain this classroom organization, there is a small chance that this may change. If this should happen, we will do our best to notify you of the changes as soon as we can.

If the year starts as normal, on the first day of school, Tuesday 8 September, all students, other than those who will be new to the school, will gather on the tarmac as they would on any other day of school. When the 9:00 bell rings, they will line up where their new class lines up and they will be met by their new teachers. Those who are new to the school will be taken by other staff members to their new classrooms. In the event of rain, students will be brought into the school and they will report to their new classrooms.

***Medical Forms***

Please remember that Prevalent Mediacal plans will need to be updated in September. We will be sending forms we currently have home with report cards. If you find that you need a form for your child, they can be found on the board website by searching “Prevalent Medical Conditions”. Doctor’s appointments will hopefully be made over the summer then we will have your child’s plan in place nice and early to ensure their safety. Please return these forms by the end of September. If circumstances change over the summer and your child outgrows their condition, please let us know.

**School Council Notes**

Cougar students, families, and friends,

This year has been another rollercoaster of uncertainty, but you should all be so proud of how we have all come together throughout the year to support each other and our community, whether it be in the classroom or virtually, to make it another successful year for our school.

This year the parent council tried something new, with input from our teachers and educators, we put together a “Wish List” and asked students, families and our community to donate to our school and the response was nothing short of amazing!! With your help our school received an IPad charging station, gift cards to Amazon, Dollarama, The Bookkeeper, and other local businesses, scissors, glue sticks, basketballs and dodgeballs, sidewalk chalk, musical instruments, a case of reusable water bottles, geometry sets, clipboards, winter hats/mitts/scarves, craft supplies and so much more! Our hope is to continue the Wish List next year, so if you happen to see a good deal while online shopping or find some treasures while you’re spring cleaning that you think our school could use please reach out to Jen Dawson at [parentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:parentcouncil@gmail.com) with any questions or to a arrange drop off or pick up.

This year we also participated in Operation Christmas Tree to help support our local food banks, and what a success it was!!! Our school contributed a total of 1514 food items and $20 cash which was more than double our initial goal of 600 food items and such an amazing contribution to our community!

We also had some fundraisers, Spirit Wear, Barn Quilt Signs, Make It Sow Seeds, and Bad Dog Nacho Kits. These four fundraisers in total raised $2297.75 ❤️ The council has decided to save this money until next year and hopefully with yours and the communities support we will be able to raise enough money to fund some outdoor improvements including new tables and benches for the older kids, a gaga ball pit for the younger kids and some more shade trees.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each parent, student, all the school staff and teachers and our community for everything you do each and every day no matter how big or small, to make our school community, one to be proud of.

Have a cougarific summer everyone 🏖

**Colonel Cameron School Council Annual Report 2020 – 2021**

**School Council Members:**

Chair: Angela Gibbs & Justin Randell

Secretary: Amber Passingham

Treasurer: Sarah Needham

Teacher Representative: Geoff Core and Lindsay Vlcek

Non-Teaching Staff Representative: Sharon Codling

Principal: Kathy Myers

Active Participants: Jen Dawson, Melissa & Ron Atyeo

**Goals, Activities and Achievements:**

The Education Act states that: “The purpose of the school council is through active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”

The Colonel Cameron Council met three times during the 2020-2021 school year. These meeting occurred on October 20, 2020, December 3, 2020, and April 26, 2021. Some of the items that were covered during the meetings were the following:

Program and Curriculum items updates

Colonel Cameron School Improvement Plan - Outdoor improvements

School and Classroom updates - need 3 new projectors before September, parking lot safety improvements

Snack Program and Healthy Eating –Students have daily healthy snacks during nutrition breaks

Bullying Awareness and Prevention

Hot Lunches – Not available this year, hopefully restart next year.

Education Week

kinderSTARt - encourage early enrolment, 211 students total registered for next year so far.

Operation Christmas Tree – Canned food drive was organized to support the local Optimist club

Fundraising Ideas

Fundraising Goals - To make outdoor improvements including outdoor benches and tables, a gaga ball pit, and also shade trees.

School Cash Online

Outdoor Learning Commons - What could be added to this area?

School Social Media Accounts

Concussion Protocol

Prevalent Medical Conditions

Math Strategies

Spirit Wear

School Messenger absentee reporting system,

Your Colonel Cameron Parent Council 🐾

**Colonel Cameron Public School Parent Council**

**Year End Financial Report**

**2020/21**

**Assets**

Opening balance - $1227.22

Spirit Wear - $186.00

Make It Sow - $281.75

Barn Quilt Signs - $880.00

Bad Dog

Nacho Kits - $940.00

Mabel’s Labels - $55.87

Parent void stale dated refund cheque $226.00

**Total = $3796.84**

**Allocation of Funds**

Teacher Allotments - $740.57

Rustic Scoops Gift Cards - $108.75

**Total = $849.32**

**Assets – Debit = Account Balance**

**$3796.84 - $849.32 = $2947.52**

**Vandalism**

I’m sad to report that our school has been the subject of vandalism over the last while. We have community members that use our basketball nets on a regular basis and others that use our playground. While we love that people love to use our facilities, we are finding broken glass on the playground almost every night and our outdoor chalkboard has suffered significant damage. If you are by the school and see these things happening, please report it. If you are using our facilities and doing so with care and respect – Thank you and keep enjoying!

**Heartfelt Thanks to All of Our Volunteers**

We haven’t had the opportunity to have volunteers into our school but know that we’ve missed you and hope that we can see you again next year.

Special thanks to our parent council. They have been meeting online all year and coming up with some very creative ways to support the school and our school community. We appreciate all that you have done and I look forward to working with you again next year.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy summer together!

Mrs. Myers

Prinicpal

Kathy.myers@lkdsb.net