

NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

(Tuesday, November 17, 2009)

Executive School Council

Jane Lewis, Co-Chair
Michele Temple, Co-Chair
Charlotte Ryan, Treasurer
Helen Shi and Teodora Miloradovic, Co-Secretaries
Svea Einola, Event Co-ordinator
Lapfong Wong, Ward Rep
Jane Mooy, New School Liaison
Pauline Thompson, Speaker Coordinator
Elaine Lurie, Music Parent Council Liaison
Lucia Dell' Agnese, Member at Large
Phyllis Cincinatus, Member at Large

School staff

Joel Gorenkoff, NTCI Principal
Helen Elliot (Modern languages) - Teacher Representative
Kathleen Pyper, Vice-Principal (M-Z)

1. Welcome - Parent Council co-Chair Jane Lewis

- opened the meeting asking parents to introduce themselves to other parents present at the meeting

2. What is Happening at NT - Student Council Report (Nina and Yasmin) and teacher Helen Elliott

- Charity week Jan. 18 – 22 - raising money for a charity chosen each year by students. This year the chosen charity is “Not for Sale” aimed at abolishing child slavery. Charity week will include home form events in each classroom and other special events throughout the school, trying to raise over \$40,000.
- Silent auction will be held for parents during Fashion Show evenings, looking for prize donations – contact e-mail:
 - ntcharityweek@gmail.com
 - yasminhariri@hotmail.com
- Winter charity initiative – collecting new toys, books, cash, etc. in each classroom for CHUM City Christmas Wish to provide gifts for 75,000 children all over GTA.
- Fashion Show – March 5 & 6, 2010
- Eco program certification continuing; waste audit was done by first collecting 35 kg of school garbage. After sorting out the food waste, reusable things, recyclable items, batteries, paper waste, soiled paper, the “pure” garbage was only 7.5 kg (17.5 kg was food and soiled paper and the rest recyclables). This audit was repeated in a smaller scale later with same results. The school Eco Club is working on the plans for new school (deciding on types of recyclable bins, installing hand dryers in bathrooms, etc.) and running class competitions in good environmental practices now to get the NT students used to it for the new school. The Eco Club will come to the next School Council meeting in January.

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3. Path to the Post Secondary Education - presented by Mr. Taylor, guidance counselor

- NTCI statistic – 90% of students go to university, 5% to college, 5% other (workplace, etc.)
- Top 10 general tips for all grades
 - o Build routines, they become habits early
 - o Encourage the success of the routine
 - o Don't try to break bad habits, replace them with good ones
 - o Be interested, look interested, act interested
 - o Talk about your child classes, their day
 - o set clear specific attainable goals, fulfilling goals gives power
 - o offer to help with homework, be supportive, but not overbearing, encourage peer tutoring
 - o become a good listener, listen to what teens are saying
 - o encourage involvement in extracurricular activities (important for university applications), daily exercise
 - o monitor jobs and encourage volunteer involvement early in high school (important for university applications – Personal Statement of Experience); ensure volunteering hours are logged and signed off in the Volunteering Passport (min 40h); for opportunities sign up for the NTCI Student mailing list from guidance department, check Guidance board and binder, check Sola Caritas site
- DON'T
 - o Nag about marks
 - o Criticize teachers
 - o Make your child's failure/success your own
 - o Miss school unnecessarily
- DO
 - o Work positively with school (teachers, admin staff)
 - o Get involved, attend parent nights, school functions, volunteer
- WHAT IF things are not going well - look for:
 - o poor attendance and truancy, they are related to school drop out, set up action plan
 - o course appropriateness
 - o accountability (rules that are worth having are worth enforcing)
 - o alcohol/drug use
 - o personal and family issues, especially signs of depression – US statistics for Grade 8-10 students – 61% expressed sadness, 36% have nothing to look forward to, 34% contemplated suicide
 - o unhappiness at school
- Tips for Grade 9
 - o NT draws from 54 different feeder schools
 - o Some students adjust better than others
 - o Encourage self advocacy with teachers
 - o Start volunteering

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- Consider international languages (Spanish, German, Latin) – 3 years provides university credit
- US and international schools look at Grade 9 marks
- Sign up for NT parent and student e-mails
- Check Shad Valley summer program (grades 9, 10, 12), compared to Harvard program
- Tips for Grade 10
 - Take Careers course seriously
 - Is 5th year a possibility? Plan appropriately, i.e if planning Engineering, take the Physics and Calculus in year 5
 - Be open to more than one post-secondary destination
 - Ramp up the volunteering work
 - Not late to consider international language
 - US and international schools look at Grade 10 marks
- Tips for Grade 11
 - Crucial year for planning, hugely important
 - Consider co-op for a group 3 credit (Grade 11 Science)
 - If doing a 5th year, set up courses appropriately
 - Canadian universities look at Grade 11 marks for early admission, project the Grade 12 marks
 - Consider JVIS (vocational survey) for career/study direction
 - If considering US schools, SAT process needs to start
 - Volunteering work should be completed
 - US and international schools look at Grade 11 marks
- Tips for Grade 12
 - Sign up for NT Grad e-mail list, find out about university visits at NT, etc.
 - Work hard from day 1, no room to coast
 - Each student should have a post secondary file
 - Attend all Grad workshops (scholarships, PIN workshop, etc.)
 - Do research, visit campuses, use e-info web site
 - Encourage responsibility in school and post-secondary choices, be aware of timelines and deadlines
 - Submit volunteering hours
- E-info web site – www.electronicinfo.ca
 - Find your university program
 - Search for scholarships, lots are available, ask Ms. Hayden
 - Residency information
 - Grade ranges required for each program (updated yearly), prerequisites (with best 6 marks)
 - Also look at www.careercruising.com
- Guidance department:
 - Ronald.Gray@tdsb.on.ca, ext 20043 (last names A-G)
 - Jenny.Hayden@tdsb.on.ca, ext 20042 (last names H-M)
 - Sandra.Biondic@tdsb.on.ca, ext 20044 (last names N-Q)
 - John.Taylor@tdsb.on.ca, ext 20041 (last names R-Z)

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4. Principal's Report - Principal Joel Gorenkoff

- Amazing Remembrance Day on November 11, NT grads that fought came back to school to talk about it
- Santa Claus parade in Toronto and Markham – Red & Gray marching band was there
- Fall Fair tickets \$5
- Report cards go out on November 19, on-line sign up for parent/teacher interviews and exam schedule (December 10-18)
- New school update
 - o Will have artificial turf field, no pool
 - o Wireless network throughout the school
 - o Will have a theatre and a cafeteria w hot/cold food
 - o Building fast finishing, skeleton completed by end of November
 - o Condominiums moving in May-June 2010
 - o School move planned for July
 - o Might be a rough start, with unpacking, computer set up, etc.

5. Treasurer's Report and financial requests– Charlotte Ryan

- Final cheque received from the fees \$20,300
- Balance is approx. \$22,000
- seven financial requests were tabled, reviewed, motioned by Jane Lewis, seconded by Lap Fong Wong and accepted:
 - 1) Classics club - \$600 to help with enrichment for NT students in classic languages (goes towards \$3400 expenses for competitions)
 - 2) Music program - \$800 for the Vocal retreat to pay honorarium for professionals to come and teach
 - 3) German program - \$375 for audio CDs for conversation
 - 4) French program - \$600 for a set of graphic novels
 - 5) Environmental Action Team - \$500 for opening of the Eco store to start up the business
 - 6) Ms. Harvey, the librarian - \$1000 to pay three student helpers for the year
 - 7) Mr. Gorenkoff - \$2200 to pay for substitute teachers during field trips and sports tournaments

6. Music Council Update – Elaine Lurie, Music Parent Council Liaison

- Santa Claus Parade was very successful and fun
- Bowlathon raised \$10,000 to buy instruments and bring specialists to teach

Next meeting – Wednesday, January 20, 2009

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.