

St. Martha Parent Council Year End Report: 2012/2013

Executive Members

Angela Ralph, Chair

Cathie Langmead, co-chair

Tammy Wheeler, Treasurer

Joanne Adams, Secretary

St. Martha Parent Council is a group of approximately 20 committed parents who meet on the third Wednesday of every month (Sept-May).

We started off the school year by supplying home-made cookies and refreshments as a welcome to all families at “Meet The Teacher” night. We continued with a successful year, largely due to dedicated parents who headed up our sub-committees and held positions as Parent Representatives for each class from EEP through Grade 6.

This year, we had the following committee heads

- • Parent Representative Coordinator: Jackie Bell
- • Hot Lunch Coordinator: Angela Ralph
- • Fundraising Coordinator: Shawna Collins
- • Helping Hands: Tammie Ramsay

We Made the decision at the end of the last school year to close the canteen due to many issues, the transition went well most parents were on board and supportive . The Hot Lunch Program, which ran weekly from October to June, also followed the Healthy Initiatives mandate and remained successful.

Our Helping Hands coordinator was kept very busy throughout the year, coordinating meals and gift cards for St. Martha families in crisis situations; as well as organizing the Giving Tree event, support staff appreciation and teacher appreciation.

Our fundraising efforts during the school year raised over \$18,000 and was accomplished primarily through the following:

- Spring Fundraiser: over \$14,000 from the sale of Lamontagne chocolates. These funds will go towards the purchase of a set of I-pads that will be able to be signed out for classes to use in the new school year
- Family Dance: we raised about \$4,600 at our Spring Fling Family Dance in April. \$3000 of that was donated to help pay for our sports day event on June 25.

We continued using the Kanga Pouches as an environmentally friendly alternative to large plastic baggies, as they are made of heavy duty vinyl & plastic, and are reusable year after year to keep schoolbooks safe. This program runs in Division One with a break-even mandate and has continued to be very successful.

Cathie Langmead, Vice Chair of Parent Council, continued to sit on the Safe Communities Wood Buffalo’s Model School Zone Project, along with Ms. Miller. Throughout the year, they continued to work with SCWB, several Municipality departments, RCMP, Bylaw, and others to increase the safety of the school zone at St. Martha School. Throughout the two years of the Project, several improvements were

made. On Millennium Drive this includes flashing signage to advise drivers of speed limit and when driving too fast, "narrowing" of roadway by painting white lines on both sides to indicate that it is single vehicle traffic only, and addition of "No Parking" signs. On Parsons Creek Drive this includes "No Parking" and time limited parking signs, and a marked crosswalk to allow pedestrians to cross from the low-income housing area. On school property, this includes a "No Left Turn" sign leaving the parking lot closest to the Millennium/Parsons Creek intersection, increased awareness to parents and staff of parking restrictions, "Kiss & Drop" area in the old bus loop. A "walking school bus" was attempted, but did not develop momentum. The most successful aspect which directly impacted the students was the gift of a velcro "yield" sign which is attached to the child's backpack and illuminates when light shines on it. Parent Council will continue to work with administration, staff and parents to help increase safety awareness and the benefits of walking vs. driving to school. The bulk of the vehicle congestion issues continue to be exasperated by parents dropping off/picking up EEP and Kindergarten students who are too young to be able to walk to school, or to enter/leave the school building without a parent/guardian present. Although the Project is now complete, it is the hope of the committee that the Catholic School District, Public School District and Municipality will continue to work together to come up with the best feasible solution to ensure that future school sites take these safety factors into consideration.

A group of parents also got together and formed a fundraising association registered in the Province. Although this society was not involved in any fundraising activities in the 2012-2013 year, it is Parent Council's hope that we will have a volunteer in place in the 2013-2014 year to facilitate application for grants and fundraising activities to help generate funds to assist St. Martha School.

We love our teachers and support staff at St. Martha! To say thanks, we hosted a potluck lunch during Support Staff Week in February, and hosted a Potluck Lunch for our teachers in April.

Our parent council attended all three Council of School Council (COSC) meetings this year, and were successful in initiating discussions to tighten financial controls among parent councils within our District.

Angela Ralph

Chair, St. Martha Parent Council