



DPAC Pulse

Newsletter from the SD43 District Parent Advisory Council



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Please send your beautiful scenic pictures of locations in our SD43 School District to newsletter@dpac43.ca and you could be in our next newsletter.

Executive Updates

AN EXCITING LINEUP OF SPEAKERS!

DPAC Executive are working towards an exciting lineup of informative speakers at our DPAC General Meetings for 2021/2022. Do save the following dates in 2021: October 27 and November 24 and January 26, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 25 for the Annual General Meeting and elections. The time is always 7:00pm. Location will be updated monthly.

HOW CAN THE DPAC HELP YOUR PAC?

Is there any way you would like DPAC to support the work that your PAC does? Please let us know by sending an email to office@dpac43.ca. Meanwhile, you can follow DPAC on Facebook at [DPAC 43 - District Parent Advisory Council](#) and on Twitter at [DPAC43](#) to stay up to date on things happening with DPAC and the school district as a whole. Also, check out our website at www.dpac43.ca for links to other useful information.

President's Corner

by Marvin Klassen

I would like to welcome all new and returning PAC members to their PAC roles as we spend time together helping our children and our school communities. The roles that you've taken on as volunteers in your community are both challenging and necessary, perhaps more so now than ever before. With the prolonged issues related to the pandemic, and the setbacks of the fourth wave, the tensions around how we manage daily interactions has added a new layer of anxiety and stress for all of us. Unfortunately, this can lead to difficult conversations as PAC leaders. We've had these discussions at DPAC as we prepare for the 2021-22 school year and hope to bring you speakers and topics that will provide some guidance as we make our way through the coming months **Reconnecting With Our Community**.



Many of us are now returning to our work places, or we've been back to work for a while now, and the demands of work life are heavier than before the pandemic. Schedules for our children are also ramping up and suddenly it seems our busy life has launched like a billionaire's space ship - full throttle in the morning, ten minutes in the stars, and back to earth in time for dinner and meetings! Meanwhile we face challenges as PAC volunteers from the expectations of our community.

I've had more than a few conversations from parents regarding the high expectations others have of your volunteer time. I've heard the comment, "I didn't volunteer for this", more than a few times since the beginning of the year. It's true, you didn't volunteer to be on your PAC with the desire to spend your free time dealing with complaints over issues you don't have authority to change. I encourage you to remember why you did volunteer. Keep those reasons in mind and make them the focus of your meetings this year. Don't worry about the expectations you can't meet and focus on what you can accomplish. Most of all remember, we acknowledge the territories we speak from, we fundraise so our children will have a better school environment and we plan and organize staff appreciation gifts and lunches. None of this would happen without your volunteer time so don't forget to acknowledge and appreciate each other for the time and energy that you freely give to your volunteer roles.

Planning for Post-Secondary Education

October 27th DPAC Parent Education Event

Josh Keller, is a Communications & Education Consultant from [Post-Secondary BC](#) is confirmed as a speaker at DPAC's October General Meeting on October 27, 2021.

Josh has 26 years experience [supporting parents in BC to help their children make the best post-secondary choices](#). He currently works with independent schools, colleges and non-profits on a wide range of projects from academic advising for parents and students to developing new marketing communications and graphic identity programs for schools and non-profits. He also works extensively as an Associate with a professional fund-raising consultant in Vancouver.

Josh will be speaking about parents' anxieties about post-secondary education planning for their children Oct. 27th at 7 p.m. via zoom.



***Education is a shared commitment
between dedicated teachers, motivated
students and enthusiastic parents with
high expectations.***

Bob Beauprez

Participation Pays

by Corrie Noble

Who am I?

My name is Corrie Noble and my daughter is in Grade 11 at Gleneagle Secondary. I am in my 9th year as a DPAC Executive. I have also served as a PAC Executive for the past 11 years in every school my daughter has attended. My wife, Lori and I both attended school in SD43 and have lived in Coquitlam for over 45 years.

How and why did you join the PAC?

I was reading a notice on the school doors when the PAC Chair approached me about PAC and getting involved. So, I attended my first PAC Meeting when my daughter was in Grade one at Eagle Ridge Elementary and the rest is history. I got involved because I thought it would be a great way to connect with other parents and get insight about what was happening in the school.

What PAC Role did you hold at Eagle Ridge Elementary?

In my first year, I was the Traffic Coordinator. There were traffic issues around the school and I had a good relationship with the City. After that I served two years as PAC Chair and then two more years as Vice Chair.

What were some of the PAC's accomplishments when you were at Eagle Ridge Elementary?

Our biggest accomplishment at Eagle Ridge was raising \$65,000 in 18 months to build a new Playground. It was all team work and we focused on connecting with local businesses around the school. Another thing we worked on was setting up a succession plan for when the children of parents who were involved with the PAC left the school. For example, Grade four and five parents would lead and mentor Grade one and two parents into that role.

What PAC Role did you hold at Scott Creek Middle?

The first year, I was the DPAC Rep and then the next two years, I served as PAC Chair.

What were some of the PAC's accomplishments when you were at Scott Creek Middle?

We focused on our PAC Meetings and bringing in Department Heads from the school to speak and let parents know what they did. We also brought in speakers from the School Board. We made sure that our PAC Meetings always started at 7:00PM and ended at 8:30PM. The PAC plays more of a supporting role at the Middle School.

What PAC Role did you hold at Gleneagle Secondary?

I have served as the DPAC Rep at Gleneagle since my daughter started Grade 9. After being involved as PAC Chair or Vice Chair at Elementary and Middle School, I wanted to step back and just observe at the High School Level.

Do you feel there are benefits by being involved in PAC?

Yes there are always benefits for being involved. It doesn't matter if it is at the PAC level, sports or other involvements in the Community. It goes a long way not only for yourself but it also means a lot to your son or daughter. In addition, you also get to know what is going on in the school and help the school community as a whole.

You have also been actively involved at the DPAC Level, can you tell us about what you have been working on in the past couple of years?

As I said I am entering my 9th term as a DPAC Executive and for the last number of years I have been a Member at Large. I have always had a focus on Traffic Safety and have connected with various schools sharing ideas about traffic safety and who to reach out to for assistance. Recently I have also been gathering and sharing ideas for PACs and Businesses on a Facebook Page called [PAC Successes / Fundraising Ideas for SD43](#). As I enter the final year(s) as a DPAC Executive I want to offer my knowledge and experiences to all levels of schools in SD43.

I always tell parents that it is important to be involved. It does not matter if you help out for one event per year or 50 events, every single input you make means a lot. You also get the opportunity to build relationships with other Parents, School Administrator and your local community. Parent involvement is an important part of what we do for our children.

Lessons from a Successful Fundraiser

Interview with Jennifer Sing

In 2016, Jennifer Sing helped Walton Elementary School PAC raise \$14,000 with a Read-a-thon fundraiser. She shares how she achieved this feat.

"I used to work for a company called Chimp (who are now called Charitable Impact). They are an online platform that makes it easier for people to raise funds for the causes they care about. One of their features makes running school fundraisers easy.

Apart from the use of this online platform, the following factors helped make the fundraiser a success:

I worked closely with the principal. The principal collaborated with the PAC to choose the date and was great at creating enthusiasm within the school. He told the students that if they hit the target amount, he would have his head shaved in front of them at an assembly! He helped handle all communication with parents about the read-a-thon and mentioned it in the weekly newsletter he sent to parents, for the four-week fundraising period.

I worked closely with the school Librarian. The funds raised were for the library, which was working off a small budget, and was having a hard time keeping the library stocked with books in good condition. I worked with the librarian to figure out how much her budget for four years would be, and we came up with a stretch goal of \$12,000 so that if we came up a little short, we would make the goal. The librarian developed a visual fundraising goal tracker of a bare tree, with leaves that students gradually added with the names of the books they read, and a thermometer that showed our fundraising efforts. This helped keep the students engaged with how the fundraiser was progressing.

The children were involved all the way. I had a few students help me star in a video to promote the read-a-thon. The 450 or so students in the school did their reading, and they encouraged their moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, family friends, everyone they knew to help fund their library needs by donating money towards the cause. After they reached the goal, the librarian let them choose which books to purchase for the library. It was great that the kids got to see the direct impact of their effort.

Friends and Family supported. Each child was encouraged to read for a minimum of 15 minutes daily, a period that was achievable for children from kindergarten to Grade 5. They also had the library to choose to read any book they liked and post about it on the school website so that classmates can also get ideas of what books to choose. Friends and family encouraged them to spend more time reading by donating money. Donations could be taken online worldwide, and tax deductible receipts were given for amounts over \$5.

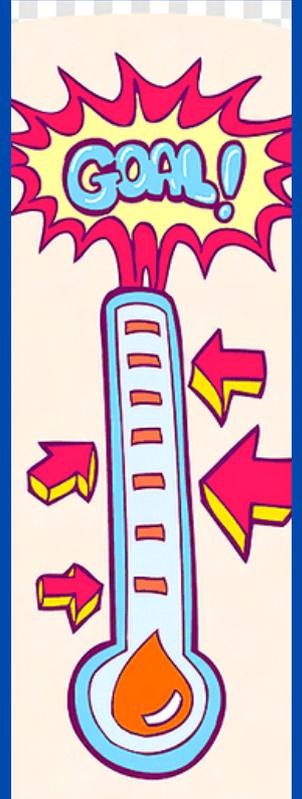
We got sponsorship. I was able to find some sponsors both from within the parent body and the larger community that agreed to donate \$500 or more as matching donations. The Chimp online platform made this seamless and since I worked there, I was able to easily administer everything. We also promoted the sponsoring businesses in all communication to the parents. The matching donations was great at creating momentum in our fundraising efforts. All of the sponsors we got were from referrals within our community.

It cost us \$25. Our only cost was \$25 for the flyers to promote the event in the community."

Check out their Impact Report for more information about the 2016 Walton Read-a-thon. For ideas you can adapt for your school fundraisers, visit and join the [PAC Successes/Fundraising Ideas for SD43](#) group on Facebook.

"A successful fundraiser is achievable when PAC, administrators, parents and the entire school community collaborate."

Jennifer Sing is a mother of two children, aged 12 & 14, attending SD43 schools. When she became a new mother, a colleague gave her some sage advice - "It is important to get involved in the school community, especially when the kids get older and are starting to get a bit more independence and a bit less communicative." She's helped out with a variety of fundraising events, and has taken on treasurer and secretary roles on various PACs. Professionally, she's a software developer and was able to put some of her work to use in the read-a-thon fundraising project described below.



2021-2022 DPAC Executives

Here are your DPAC executives for the 2021-2022 school year.



Marvin Klassen - President



Rosey Manhas - Vice President



Jamie Manchester - Treasurer



Andrea Howorth - PAC
Communications



Zainab Alkassab - Parent
Education Coordinator



Ernest Wu - Health and Safety
Coordinator



Judith Obatusa - Newsletter Editor



Nipa Bhalla - Member at Large 1



Corrie Noble - Member at
Large 2



Joanne Chng - Member at Large 3



Rayne Johnson - Member at
Large 4

To view the bios of the 2021-2022 DPAC Executive Team members and/or contact any of them, visit the [About Us page](#) on www.dpac43.ca.