



The Council Connection October 2011

Welcome to the first St. Joseph's School Council update. Your members of Council for the 2011/2012 school year are:

Dianne Tremblay, Tammy Brissette, Jason Stearns
Robert Grant, Jack Moreau, Angela Hudson, Robyn Gallard

The Local School Council is made up of parents from the school community who are elected on 3 year terms to participate in decision making in designated areas of responsibility. The Council assists the school administration in ensuring that educational policies are followed and supervises issues related to the physical structure of the school as well as the business and finances pertaining to it. Meetings are held once a month.

Dianne Tremblay and Tammy Brissette are sharing the Chairperson role this school year as they did with such ease last year. Their role as Chairperson entails chairing meetings, liaising with the school administration and Board as and when required.

Dianne and Tammy also have the Parent's Auxiliary Group (PAG) portfolio and will act as a liaison between the PAG and School Council by attending PAG meetings. They will also keep Council current with PAG activities and will update the PAG with the financial priorities of the school as they evolve.

Jason Stearns who is one of our new Council members has the Marketing and Public Relations portfolio and will attend regular marketing meetings along with Tammy Brissette. They will meet with reps from the other Island Catholic Schools and from the Diocese head office. These next few years promise to be exciting with the amalgamation of St. Andrew's Elementary into St. Joseph's School. As we welcome those students and families into our school community, we move toward unity in our brand identity as one Catholic School community. Jason and Tammy will be instrumental in having the voice of St. Joseph's heard in the Island Catholic School marketing meetings.

Angela Hudson is our Council Finance representative and is one of the new members on Council. She assists Mr. DiCasta with the schools' budget and reports to ensure they remain balanced. She works also works with the Financial Administrator of the Diocese of Victoria as and when needed and ensures the school has met its reporting obligations.

Robert Grant, who is another new Council member, has taken on the Buildings and Grounds portfolio. He and Mr. DiCastrri are already hard at work trying to address the troublesome areas of our parking lot and exploring the possibility of seeing the gym repainted and perhaps have a St. Joseph's slogan or logo painted at the same time. There was an open house meeting on October 3, 2011 at 5:30pm at St. Andrew's High School sharing preliminary design schemes to show how the existing school may expand into a new school to welcome the St. Andrew's Elementary students. Hoping some of you were able to attend and ask any questions you may have had.

Jack Moreau is taking over the Parish Council Liaison portfolio. He will be attending the Parish Council meetings once a month and keeping the church up to date on the school activities. He will also maintain dialogue with the Parish Pastoral Council regarding Parish support of the School and inviting Father Hann to our Council meetings. The school is excited to be able to share in a joint Casino Night/Auction with the Parish on November 19th and everyone is urged to attend and donate an item for the auction and a great cause – our children.

Robyn Gallard is continuing on in the role of Secretary and also has the Human Resources portfolio. Robyn takes the meeting minutes and produces "The Council Connection" newsletter throughout the year, so watch for them to be attached to the newsletters that are sent or emailed home.

If you have a question for Council that is unable to be presented at the PAG meetings, please feel free to submit your questions in writing and deposit into the envelope on the wall that is located just outside the office. They will be collected and you will receive a written reply from Council after the next regularly scheduled meeting.

In the Human Resource portfolio, Robyn is looking forward to connecting with our teachers and school staff through the teachers' representative group and work with them to address any of their questions, requests or suggestions to ensure the school is acting in their best interests.

Just a month or so into the new school year we already have many exciting things to report. Our cross country team has competed in a few meets and have done very well, the Grade 7's went on a retreat to Camp Pringle to meet other Grade 7 students from the Island Catholic School family and enjoyed the experience, Grade 4 and 5's participated in the annual soccer jamboree and had a great time! Full day kindergarten is full and off to a great start in the newly renovated kindergarten room (a huge thanks to the PAG for their financial support), we celebrated school mass on September 28th and had a non uniform day to support the Tour de Rock!

Finally, a big thank you to our dedicated parents and school staff who make St. Joseph's such a great community to be a part of.