



## CSPA Meeting Minutes ~ November 10, 2020

- **Welcome**
  - Explanation of what the CSPA is aiming to accomplish this year within COVID parameters.
  - Unfortunately, Dalia Eisen, was unable to attend this meeting. She would like to thank all the parents for their support in helping us to get the school up and running in the safest manner possible. She looks forward to joining at the next CSPA meeting.
  
- **Principals Corner – Sharon Liebenthal**
  - Leading into September it was very stressful for the administration and faculty as there were no clear insights into the rules and regulations for the school year until very late in August. The faculty was able to pull off an amazing roll out of the school year that involved a lot more preparation than any other year.
  - The homeroom teachers are facing new and unique challenges this year such as they are with your children from 8am to 4pm without a break and integrating online learners into the classroom. All of Crestwood teachers are balancing this and so much more, and have truly went above and beyond.
  - All of our desks have shields, hand-sanitizing stations were installed throughout the school and the school has never been cleaner. There is a team of staff who clean handles, desks and floors throughout the day, in addition to the evening cleaners. The school is spotless!
  - The children are coping well in their cohorts and have learned how to connect and play with each other within the new restrictions. They know the areas they need to stay in during recess, look forward to their new assigned areas, and have been very imaginative in their play.
  - There are no words to thank the teachers for what they are doing for all of our children – **they are the frontline workers** (for the children).
  - Carpool is running well and going very smoothly this year.
  
- **Principals Corner – Amy Fuller**
  - It has been difficult for the children adapting to not having sports teams or clubs. We are trying to create a sense of community even still.
    - House Heads had a live stream Halloween event where each class joined in the school dance party.
  - The CSPA sponsored scientists in the school (who attend virtually) and they dropped off supplies for the sessions. Your children may have already brought home some of their experiments.

- We have been trying to get the community service team going by meeting outside at a social distance.
    - It has been hard collecting items for food drives etc. because we do not want the children touching items.
  - House Heads are doing weekly video news briefings again which are posted on Edsby.
  - Our male faculty, staff and grounds crew have started growing their Movember mustaches or beards in support of prostate cancer.
    - We are selling fake mustache stickers to put on facemasks for the children to purchase.
    - Currently they have been on sale only in the Junior Building, but Sharon Liebenthal will bring this initiative to the Atrium classes (K – Grades 2s) next week.
    - We will provide more info in the Crestwood Newsletter and/or a handout so parents know about the ability to donate.
  - The *PrinciPALS* update from the weekly newsletter will try to continue to provide information on what is happening inside the school.
- **Crestwood Cares**
    - Crestwood Cares is the name of our community outreach program
    - Pattie Hektor, a retired Crestwood Principal, has volunteered in previous years to run this initiative and supported our Head Heads.
      - She is willing to assist us this year in a virtual fashion.
      - Amy Fuller will inquire how she would like to be involved and act as her in-school counterpart.
    - Last year we held Thanksgiving food drives, collected holiday gifts for woman’s shelters
      - As a large achievement we collected a cube van full of warm cloths, food, activities for a Native Canadian Community living up North. Pattie Hektor drove the items to the community and came back with photos and some traditional gifts for the school.
    - This year any donations for any initiative should be made through gift cards but we are considering physical donation options through centralized drop boxes within the school.
      - This should eliminate having our House Heads/Community Service Team from collecting items from different class cohorts.
  - **Fundraising**
    - In previous years we have put CSPA funds towards purchasing new playground equipment, outfitting the Mac Lab, outdoor nets, artificial turf, scientists in the classroom, author visits, purchasing books for in-class libraries, yoga and mindfulness programing. We have also purchased sports wear for our faculty coaches to wear at competitive events, board games for classrooms and purchasing pizza lunches for the teachers on Toonie Tuesdays.
    - This year we are not looking to make any large purchases as many of our fundraising initiatives are not possible such as our Holiday Shopping Market or end of the year Family Fun Fair.
    - Additionally, we do not want the Crestwood Community to feel overburdened with fundraising pressures given the fact that many families are faced with increased financial issues due to COVID.

- So far, our fundraising initiatives for this school year are
  - Pizza lunch
    - We purchase the pizza for the children at a discounted rate so we are able to get some funds for the CSPA.
  - Bookfair
    - This year we will be having an Online Bookfair run by our school librarian Lara Bafaro.
    - She will be showing the children how to navigate the website, help them make shopping lists and offer suggestions for titles they may like.
    - The bookfair generates funds back into our school library and purchases books for the children's classrooms.
      - Unfortunately, this year we are not able to use these revenues towards purchasing "Author Visits" as all of the promotional money will be provided in product.
    - Please check out the online book fair as every book you buy for your home library helps buy new books for our school library.
  - CSPA dues
  - Cookbook sales
    - Last year we published a cookbook with recipes from students and teachers.
    - We successfully sold out our first run and ordered more copies to sell based on requests for additional copies. These copies were delivered in late March. We obviously had not been able to sell because of COVID.
    - The CSPA will create a flyer with information on how to purchase the cookbook for students to take home in the coming weeks.
    - The cookbook has some amazing easy to re-recreate recipes and does make a great gift!
  - Birthday Books Program
    - Run by Lara Bafaro and Parent Volunteer Allison Waldenberg
    - Parents are mailed a letter during their child's birthday month requesting a donation of \$15-\$30 towards purchasing new books of interest for their child. The parent provides a couple of topics of interest and Ms. Bafaro sends your child home with the new books. Your child is the first student to borrow these new books and each one has an inscription stating who the books were purchased for and from whom.
      - The students always enjoy finding a great book with their own or a friend's name in it.

- Ideas for spending CSPA funds (based on discussion)
      - Additional playground equipment to enrich recess
        - Spike ball
        - New nets
        - Disco bouncy “things”
      - Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the Holidays
        - Donations or sponsored items
- **Class Parents**
  - This year we will not have official class or grade parents due to the fact we are unable to have parents in the school.
  - Parents are encouraged offer support to their classroom teachers.
- **Teacher Gifts (Holidays and End of Year)**
  - This year in our efforts to not request money from families we will not have formalized class gifts.
  - If a parent wants to do this for their class it is allowed but we are not formalizing this throughout the school as in previous years.
  - When it comes to the Holidays or End of the Year, our teachers have always appreciated Crestwood Parents’ generosity but as so many have articulated, a card from your child with a note of thanks is appreciated.
    - If you are planning on giving gifts, please think of all of the staff who help your child throughout their day such as:
      - Specialty Teachers – Music, Gym, Library, Art, French, Computers
      - Auxiliary Staff – Grace and Vee in the front office
      - Support Staff – Connie in the Atrium (K-Grade 2), Yesenia (in the Junior building), cafeteria workers etc.
- **Pizza Lunch**
  - This year the Cafeteria team is delivering the pizzas to the classrooms like the regular lunches, as the parent volunteers are no longer able to help give out pizza.
  - Included with the pizza lunch the children received a bag of chips, carrots and celery.

- **New Parent Welcoming Committee**

- In previous years, this committee contacts all new families in August to welcome them to Crestwood and share information.
- This year we had a huge increase in the number of new families and we were unable to get the list of students in advance of the first day of school. In part, this was due to new families registering well into the first weeks of school.
- Even though these calls are later than we would want, the CSPA would like to still see that all new families receive a welcome call from another family so we are requesting volunteers for this committee.
- During the meeting we received two volunteers but parents who would like to help out with this initiative can email [cspa@crestwood.on.ca](mailto:cspa@crestwood.on.ca) to sign up to help out.
- The CSPA will split the list of new families between the volunteers so you can reach out to families within your children's grade.
- Additionally, we will provide some talking points so the volunteers have some answers to usual questions asked.

- **Q&A / Discussion**

- This year there has been a feeling of a lack of community and we discussed how to rectify this
  - Having a parent in each home room host a virtual class event via Zoom
    - Wine and Cheese, social chat etc.
    - Provide a platform for parents to see each other face to face, mask off
    - Without the social events at school it is hard for parents to meet one another
  - Create a Group Chat for classes to communicate (WhatsApp)
- Hot Lunch
  - Some children are complaining they are not getting enough of certain items during the plated hot lunches
    - Last year children in the Junior building could get seconds or get a bagel and select food from the salad / deli bar if they didn't like what was being served that day. As the children cannot leave their classes to get other food this created a challenge
    - We no longer have a salad bar due to COVID to supplement hungry kids
    - If your child is coming home hungry from hot lunch, please tell your child's teacher because each class has had extra food provided daily since the beginning of the year.
- Spirit Wear
  - Last year we sold Crestwood branded clothing through an online uniform retailer:
    - Rain jackets, hoodies, hats, shirts etc.
  - Due to COVID, items were picked up from Ms. Brenzel home.
  - There was a lot of interest and parents were happy with the items and quality of the items.
    - RESOLUTION
      - The CSPA executive will circle back to see how much was raised in the end and if it makes sense to run this again.

- Children are allowed to wear these items during “Grub Days” at school.
- School Market Place
  - Possibility of starting an online social media page where parents can sell/give uniforms or school items to one another
  - Discuss school issues etc.
    - RESOLUTUON
      - The CSPA will contact Dalia to request permission to do this and request assistance in creating parameters for the group.
      - Following this, the CSPA will work with Luke to launch this to the parent body if approved.
      - The CSPA will follow up at the next meeting regarding the progress.
  - Luke Connors is from our school’s Faculty and also manages the school’s social media profile. He manages a WeChat Group for non-English language-based families to communicate and access school-based announcements.
- Uniforms
  - We are not switching to formal uniforms this winter. Children can continue wearing their polo shirts and sweaters (white button downs are not required this year).
  - If you ordered uniform items and have not received them, Dave Cunningham [davecunningham@sympatico.ca](mailto:davecunningham@sympatico.ca) can help
    - In case he is slow to respond you can contact Grace (front office) or Ms. Liebenthal or Ms. Fuller for help.
  - Due to COVID we cannot run the used uniform sale.
- Winter Warm Cloths
  - Children are still coming to school without proper warm clothing.
  - The Children can be outside for at least an hour a day and staying warm is key
  - If your children do not have or are not wearing snow pants on a snowy day they will not be allowed to play in the snow and will be forced to remain on the side to ensure they stay dry.
  - If possible, please provide winter wear to keep at school (hats, gloves etc.) and ensure your child has extra clothes in case they get wet at school. Socks can get soaked when changing from boots to shoes.
  - Please speak to your older children who are more concerned about their “image” than their warmth. This year more than ever it is important everyone stays healthy and keeping warm while outside is a great first step towards this goal.
- Lost and Found
  - Without parents having access to the building it is hard to check “Lost and Found” for wayward items.
  - This makes it more important that all of your children’s items are properly labeled so they can be returned to your child.
  - School sweaters all look the same and we know they are too inexpensive to replace. Please label them!

- There are some big-ticket items in our lost and found (Burberry Rain Jacket) and students have been asked about the possible owner. There have not been any takers. It is such a shame to have items like this stay lost.

**Please read your weekly Crestwood Newsletter to get more information about the CSPA and Crestwood events.**

**Your CSPA Executive,**

Pam Sulpizi (President),

Melissa Arbesman (Secretary),

Sara Sinclair (Treasurer)