

# School Council Teacher Report

October 15, 2018

Prepared by: Julie Corrigan

## School News

Here are a few general/school items:

1. We have 136 students in grades 3 to 6 who have dedicated themselves to daily running time for our cross country team. The 5 coaches are so impressed by the time and effort these students are putting into working towards their personal running goals! We are looking forward to our cross country meet on October 18th at Baxter Conservation Centre. **A huge thanks to our parent council for providing funds toward the purchase of tents!**
2. The **ACES Collaboratory** has been very busy these past few weeks as teachers and students have begun exploring it. Attached is a list of the materials and resources that were part of the initial Collaboratory Setup. In addition to this, we have begun collecting materials for the maker/design activities that will take place in this space. We are in the process of planning next steps for the Collaboratory, and will keep School Council informed of new developments.
3. Several classes signed up for in-school [Ozobot](#) workshops with an Instructional Technology Coach with the OCDSB. These were hands-on and very informative. By the end of the third workshop this week, most students will have had the opportunity to work with the Ozobots.
4. The ACES WE Club is underway with almost 45 student members. This is a much higher number than usual; we are trying something different this year in order to provide more students than the usual 30 to participate in the WE Club. Our first campaign is a food drive, as part of the "WE Scare Hunger" campaign. In November, 18 students (and 2 supervising teachers) will have the opportunity to go to WE Day. We will be asking parents to drive this year; this is because there were no buses available when we tried to book one last spring.

## Primary Update

EF3A/3B:

1. We recently explored our Butterfly garden up close, creating a "field guide" of plants that support Monarch butterflies - from milkweed (where Monarchs lay eggs) to nectar plants (food source for adult monarchs).

2. We had a special guest in our class: Mr. David Fraser, a longtime disaster management and communications volunteer at the Red Cross. He was excited to accept the cheque from our class following the "Toonie Tornado" campaign they planned that raised just over **\$680**. Students learned what the Red Cross does with money to support those affected by disasters, as well as the importance of Emergency Preparedness.
3. We will have a special presentation on Wednesday: [Sound Sense: The Importance of Hearing Health in Elementary Students](#).

### **Junior Update**

1. Our grade 4-6 soccer teams will be participating in tournaments all next week with our grade 6 girls kicking off the week. We are thankful for our coaches Mme Digney, Mrs. Patel, M Perron and Mr Simpson for coaching the teams.
2. We have 2 teacher candidates (student teachers) from Nipissing in our French immersion classes and 2 from Ottawa University who are learning in the ETFI role.
3. EF45A (The Grew Crew!) [Ozobots: défi canadien](#) Mme Grew's class visited the new ACES Collaboratory makerspace for the first time last week and it was a great experience! She presented the students with a Social Studies integrated challenge to make the Ozobots travel across Canada from capital city to capital city. There were many great solutions, and some of the Ozobots even did a victory dance at the end! They've documented their challenge and posted it in the Collaboratory.
4. Mme Sabba is leading an initiative for Monday Meditation in the foyer for 5 minutes of Mindfulness. Her class, together with Ms Rhine and her class, have invited individual classes to join them each week. By the end of October they will open this to the rest of the school. The Imagery and Visualization part of this Meditation is usually lead by one of our grade 6 Lead students.

### **Requests for Consideration**

Our teachers are excited to partner with School Council to enhance student learning. Teachers would like to request, once again:

- the funding of one bus and/or in-house presentation to be covered by Council
- The continuation of Scientist in Schools presentation funding
- Mrs. Clarke would like council to partner with her and consider the purchase of butterfly larvae in the spring. It costs less than \$100.

Dear School Council,

On behalf of the Primary English teachers, we would like to ask the Parent Council to fund an online reading program for our students. Raz-Kids is an award-winning program that provides comprehensive leveled reading resources for students. There are hundreds of eBooks offered at 29 different levels of reading difficulty.

Kids access their leveled text through an interactive learning portal designed to keep them motivated and engaged. Every eBook is available in online and mobile formats, and allows students to listen to, read at their own pace, and record themselves reading. Students then take a corresponding eQuiz complete with an extended answer response to test comprehension and determine future instruction needs. Once a child has read ten or more of the leveled eBooks and passed each of the corresponding eQuizzes, they advance on to the next reading level where they have access to lengthier and more difficult text.

Teachers at ACES use this program with our iPads at school during small group and independent reading time, and also as a home-reading program that students can access daily. Because it is all online, there are no issues with lost, missing or damaged books and kids are always able to read books that are at a suitable reading level.

We would like to purchase 4 class subscriptions at a total cost of \$572.00. This would include Regular Grade 1/2 class, Regular Grade 3 class, and both EFI Grade 2 English classes. It would also include the GLP class and any other primary/junior students who are receiving support from our LST team and would benefit from the program. Many of our teachers have been using this program for several years and have found it to be very engaging and motivating way for our Primary students to practise their reading skills.

Thanks,

Sarah Atherton, Sue Kershaw, Barb Clarke, Rachel Rhine, Paula Clark, Mei Tang