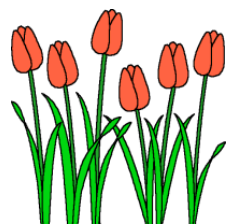


Holly PAC Newsletter

Holly Elementary - Home of the Holly Hornets

February/March 2012

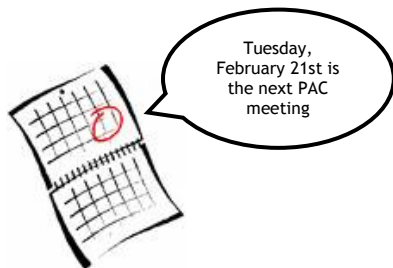


PAC Meeting Schedule 2012

February 21

April 10

May 8



PAC Executive for 2011/2012 Year

Jennifer Griffiths, Co-Chair
tjgriff@dccnet.com

Lorelei Dake, Co-Chair
leidake@yahoo.ca

Jenifer Gentle, Vice Chair
jgentle@telus.net

Jana Wachowski, Secretary
jcwachowski@gmail.com

Rose Kroeker, Treasurer
rose_kroeker@telus.net

Janice Ayach,
DPAC Representative
mjayach@telus.net

SPRING FAIR – SAVE THE DATE

Our main fundraiser for the year will take place during the evening of Friday, May 11 at Holly. Please look for notices coming home regarding the spring fair after spring break. We always welcome help and are still looking for a few people to help on the organizing committee - it is a fun event to get involved with and a great way to get to know other parents at the school! Please forward your name to Jennifer Griffiths, tjgriff@dccnet.com if you are available!

TEACHER STRIKE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DELTA DPAC

For those who may not have heard recent reports in the mainstream media, provided below are a few links of interest:

BC Ministry of Labour announcement that a fact-finder has been appointed to determine whether it will be possible for BCPSEA and the BCTF to reach an agreement:

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2012LCITZ0003-000134.htm

Link to the BCTF website, where their response to this announcement is posted, in addition to regular updates on the BCTF's perspective on bargaining:
<http://www.bctf.ca/NewsReleases.aspx?id=25235>

Letter from BCPSEA to BCTF summarizing their perspective on the current stalemate and outlining their opinion on requirements for talks to move along:
<http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/documents/publications/February%209%20-%20attachment%20-%20Letter%20to%20Jim%20Iker.pdf>

In addition, the BCTF and BCPSEA have posted regular updates on bargaining. Find them here:

<http://www.bcpsea.bc.ca/bc-teachers/teacher-collective-bargaining.aspx>
<http://bctf.ca/>

Finally, BCTF has posted a Letter to Parents, dated January 2012:
<http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/BargainingContracts/ParentLetterJan2012.pdf>

We encourage parents to contact your child's teacher or principal with questions related to schools/students/learning, and Paul Steer, President of the Delta Teacher's Association, if you have any questions related to the union and current job action. We also encourage parents to write to their MLA, the Minister of Education or any member of government asking that they find a resolution to the job action.

PAC EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

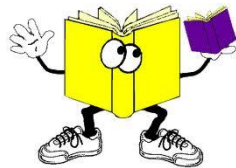
Interested in being on the PAC Executive? Nominations for the 2012-13 school year are now being accepted. Voting will take place at the PAC general meeting on May 8th at 7pm. The positions are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and DPAC Representative. If you are interested, please speak to one of the existing executives or email Jenifer Gentle at jgentle@telus.net

BIG BROTHERS CLOTHING DRIVE

Coming up in April is the Big Brothers Clothing Drive, with drop-off dates at the school from April 19 to 25. Please think of us as you clean out your closets during spring cleaning! Acceptable items for the clothing drive are:

Clothing for men, women and children
Accessories (ex. belts, hats, gloves, etc.)
Shoes, boots and slippers
Purses, backpacks, wallets and bags
Curtains, drapes and table linens
Towels and sheets
Blankets, comforters and pillows
Sleeping bags

Please ask your friends, family and neighbours to clean out their closets too - and place them inside the front doors in the hallway by the gym during April 19 to 25. If possible, please fill to a capacity of between 15.5 to 17 lbs to make things easier for our volunteers. We are happy to accept partial bags too. If you are able to help volunteer for a few minutes in the morning or after school on any of the above dates please forward your name to Jennifer Griffiths, tjgriff@dccent.com. Thank you!!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving soon, and we're excited about sharing the joy of books with our students. We invite you to participate in this year's Scholastic Book Fair, from February 28 to March 1, by volunteering. The theme is "**BOOKFAIR LUAU**"! Our Scholastic Book Fair gives our school the opportunity to bring families, teachers, students, and books together. It's the ultimate book event! Additionally, a portion of the sales benefits our school. It's the best way to raise funds while encouraging kids to read. If you are interested in helping with this Spring's Book Fair please speak to Jamie or Janice and/or email mjayach@telus.net.

PARENT PARKING AT HOLLY

Parents, please show due care when driving in the parking lot at the school. You should be aware that the usual 'rules of the road' also apply when you are driving and parking in the lot at school. This includes using your turning signals, shoulder checking before pulling away from the side parking areas, yielding to oncoming traffic, and checking before backing out of parking stalls. There have been recent incidents where these rules have not been observed, with a number of 'near miss accident' situations.

DROP OFF ZONE: Once again, parents please be advised that the drop off zone (the right hand side lane of the lot when you are entering the lot) is for pickup/drop off **ONLY**. Parking and getting out of your vehicle is contrary to the posted traffic signs, and it creates an environment that puts our children at risk. When you park and leave your vehicle, a scenerio where other parents are double parking beside you to pick up or drop off their children begins and has a chain reaction. This blocks other traffic including school buses from entering the lot, and children walking around parked cars.

In addition, do not let your children out of the car at the entrance to the round-about. A parent witnessed a near miss when a child was let out on the traffic side of the vehicle near the round-about. This could have resulted in a tragedy.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR CHILDREN, OTHER DRIVERS, AND THE TRAFFIC LAWS!

UPDATE TO HOLLY PAC'S CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

We are currently in the process of updating the PAC's Constitution and Bylaws. At the April 10, 2012 PAC general meeting, we will be voting on these amendments. In advance of this, the proposed amendments will be posted on the Holly website and on our bulletin board near the gym. For more information, please contact Jenifer Gentle at jgentle@telus.net.

PLAYGROUND REFUND UPDATE

We have been advised that our playground refund in the amount of \$19,800 is in the mail. We expect to receive it by February 24, 2012!!! Teachers are currently in the process of putting together a "wish list". At the upcoming PAC meetings, we will be discussing how best to spend this refund. Please attend to give your input!

COBS BREAD REMINDER

Don't forget!! Holly is registered with Cobs Breads "Dough Raiser" Group in Ladner. Don't forget when paying for your purchases to tell them that you are with Holly Elementary. The PAC will receive 5% back on all purchases for the year!

DELTA PAC ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC)

*Highlights of Delta Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Meeting - January 16, 2012
Attended by Jennifer Griffiths and Lorelei Dake, Holly PAC Co-Chairs*

The new Board of Education was present at this meeting to meet with school reps. We sat down with Holly's School Trustee, Laura Dixon, to talk and ask questions in a round-table format.

Numerous topics were discussed, with the main one being the current teacher's strike. Paul Steer, President of the Delta Teachers' Association, was there and provided additional information. PAC reps were told that the situation between the teachers and the government is stuck and not going anywhere and the overall belief presented by our trustees is that parent opinions and views on the strike are very important. It was suggested that there needs to be political pressure applied by parents to help this situation reach a resolution: write letters to your MLA, the Minister of Education, or to anyone in our BC government expressing your concerns.

Trustees are open to coming to a PAC meeting to talk with parents to form and build a relationship with the PAC to support us to the best of their abilities. Stay tuned for a future PAC meeting where Laura Dixon will be our guest speaker. Bring your questions.

There was some concern expressed with the new math curriculum. Parents stated that students were having difficulties in various grades and that the parents themselves did not understand the 'new math'. The Holly PAC has the opportunity to use a grant from DPAC to bring an expert to a meeting to explain the math curriculum. If you are interested and would like to see this workshop presented at a future PAC meeting, please contact the PAC Exec.

Check out the DPAC website: <http://dpac.deltasd.bc.ca> for information on many topics.

Next DPAC meeting: Monday, February 20, 7pm, at Devon Gardens - Budget meeting and nominations for DPAC Executive. Everyone is welcome.

Fundraising Fair: Saturday, February 25, 12-5pm, at East Delta Hall - Come and learn about innovative & fun fundraising solutions for your PAC, Band, Sports or Community Group. Free admission. Everyone welcome. Please pass this information on.

DPAC Emergency Prep Meeting: Saturday, May 5, at East Delta Hall - more information available soon.