



DPAC Newsletter

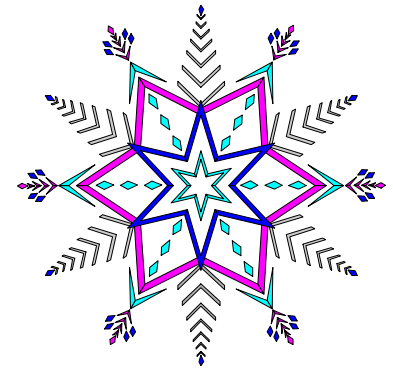
School District #43

February 2004

Volume 1, Number 4

"Our mission is to facilitate, support and advocate for the effective involvement of parents as partners working towards excellence in education."

Happy New Year
from DPAC



"Creating Safer Schools" Workshop



What is the parent role in violence awareness, prevention, intervention, and protection in the school or District, in the PAC or DPAC? Explore how PACs & DPACs can participate in creating safer schools for all students. Included is an overview of successful safe school strategies and resources developed by experienced organizations. Join us:

February 18th 7 to 9 pm
Winslow Center Gallery Room

Please R.S.V.P. to Claude Hrycaiko, DPAC Parent Education Coordinator, at 604-942-5013 or 604-209-4150 by noon February 17th.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

DPAC

- February 18th
"Creating Safer Schools"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- February 25th
DPAC General Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
Vote: BCCPAC resolutions
Presentations:
- Consortium 43
- District Strategic Plan

Parent Ed. Workshops

Two additional BCCPAC Parent Education evenings are planned. Both are at Winslow Center Gallery Room from 7 to 9 pm. You can register by phone at 604-942-5013, by fax at 604-942-5013 or e-mail to claudenh@shaw.ca. We ask that you tell other parents about our workshops and encourage them to attend as well.



Thursday, March 25th "School Planning Councils Level 2"

This workshop is for parents who are familiar with the role of the SPC. It will review what has been learned so far and share best practices on consultation, goals, gathering information, data and other sources, communications and more! Please register for this workshop before March 11, 2004

Wednesday, April 21st "Effective Planning"

At this workshop you will learn the basics of strategic planning and goal setting and how they are essential to the effectiveness of your PAC. This workshop will help you clarify your PAC's role and direction. And show you how a thoughtful plan and action strategy can launch your PAC on the road to greater parent involvement in your school and District.

- March 25th
"SPC Level 2"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- March 31st
DPAC General
Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
- April 21st
"Effective
Planning"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center

SD #43

- Board Meetings
2004 7:30 pm
February 17
March 9
March 30
April 20
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam
- Public Budget
Meetings
March 23
March 30
April 6
April 13
April 20

Proposed BCCPAC Resolutions



The following resolutions were brought forward from our DPAC Executive at our January 28th DPAC General Meeting. They are to be discussed at the PAC level and voted upon. It is suggested that this vote be taken by secret ballot. The results of the vote, whether or not your PAC supports letting these resolutions be brought forward to the May 2004 BCCPAC AGM, should be brought to the next DPAC General meeting on February 25th. If you would like a member of the DPAC Executive to be at your PAC meeting to answer any questions when you discuss these resolutions, please contact the DPAC office.

Support for the Duty to Report

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: BCCPAC strongly support the continued inclusion of Section 27.1(1) of the Teaching Profession Amendment Act (Bill 51), that creates a duty on a member of the B.C. College of Teachers to report their belief that another member is guilty of professional misconduct.

RATIONALE:

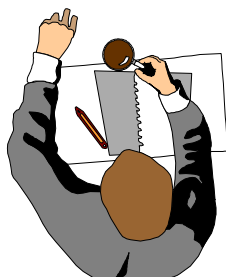
- Any adult anywhere that knows another adult is conducting themselves unprofessionally and inappropriately with children has a duty to report such behaviour.
- The duty to report protects students and the public interest.
- Teachers have a duty to uphold high standards within their profession. In allowing untoward and unprofessional behaviour to continue, they would actually contribute to the reduction of those high standards.
- The duty to report instills public confidence in the Teaching Profession Act

Support for the B.C. College of Teachers Person Complaint Process

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: BCCPAC strongly support the continued inclusion of the B.C. College of Teachers Person Complaint Process Section 28.4(C1) of the Teaching Profession Amendment Act (Bill 51).

RATIONALE:

- Professions are structured to protect the public interest and to maintain professional standards. A person complaint process ensures those standards are both maintained and enforced.
- A Person Complaint Process is important in maintaining public confidence in the Teaching Profession Act.
- Students, parents, and those within a profession all benefit from the public accountability of a profession.
- A person complaints process ensures that those within a profession needing assistance will receive that assistance.



New DPAC Vice President

At its January 13th Executive meeting, the DPAC Executive voted in favour of appointing Claude Hrycaiko as DPAC Vice President until the end of the year. This appointment was triggered because of the resignation of Suzanne Doerkson from the position in December. Claude will continue to hold his Parent Education Coordinator position as well. Congratulations, Claude !

Budget News

It's that time of year when once again we are involved in the budget process for the School District. This year the process has been delayed somewhat, as the Ministry will not be releasing the allocation for each individual school district until mid-March instead of mid-February. Since the District receives 88% of its funding from the Ministry, the District cannot start budgeting in earnest until they know exactly how much money they will receive from the province. This year the total provincial education budget is 3.875 billion dollars.



On February 4th at Winslow Center, the District held a "Budgeting Priorities" session for all School Planning Council members in the District. Other sessions will be held with Partner groups, District staff and the Trustees over the next few months. At a special March 23rd Board Meeting, the budget situation will be



formally announced (7 pm Board Office - TBC). Public meetings for budget input are scheduled for Tuesday March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th. Ultimately, at the April 20th Board Meeting, the Trustees are expected to debate and finalize decisions on the 2004/05 Budget.

The best way to keep informed about the District budget situation is to attend the School Board meetings (dates are listed on the side-bar of this newsletter). At the present time, the District is forecasting a \$1.174 million year-end surplus for the 2003/04 school year. This amount is expected to be carried forward into the 2004/05 Budget.



WWW.

DPAC is on the Web!!! Check out our site at www.dpac.citysoup.ca. The site is only just up and running, so check it regularly for new information and updates on-line.

SD#43 Transportation Review

At the January 27th Board Meeting, the Transportation Policy Review Report was presented. The recommendations from the review committee, who consulted the various partner groups and the public, centered on the premise that the policy be fair and equitable to all students, parents, and schools. The recommendations are to:

- Provide student transportation based on existing SD#43 walk limits
- Ensure that the policy and regulations are applied consistently
- If funding becomes an issue in the future, review the transportation policy.

If adopted, it would mean that distance alone would determine eligibility for bussing and courtesy riders would not be allowed.

The report is available on the front page of the District website at www.sd43.bc.ca. The Board will deliberate on the report at its next public meeting on Tuesday, February 17th.



SD#43 "Asset Building Week"

Feb 16th to 20th

As one of DPAC's series of parent education presentations, Keith Pattinson spoke to a group of SD#43 parents at Winslow Center on January 14th. His topic was asset-building, "Giving Our Kids What They Need to Succeed". Forty factors were identified as Developmental Assets. They are essentially important factors in the successful development of all children and young people. Keith gave a very entertaining and educational talk and was followed by Tamara Ramusovic, President of the SD#43 Student Leadership Council (SLC). The SLC fully supports the implementation of the "Youth Matters!" asset-building program in our District and has come up with a list of how adults can help kids build assets. Their suggestions are reproduced below. The week of February 16th to 20th has been declared "Asset Building Week" in SD#43, watch for activities happening at your school.



WAYS THAT ADULTS CAN HELP US BUILD ASSETS

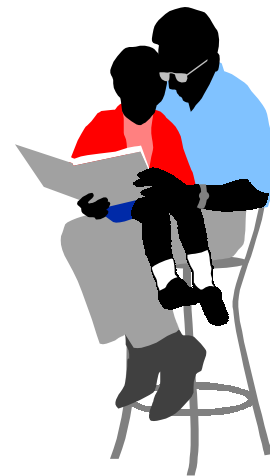
Compiled by the members of the District #43 Student Leadership Council

- Encourage us
- Take time to talk to us
- Don't swear in front us
- Help us organize activities that

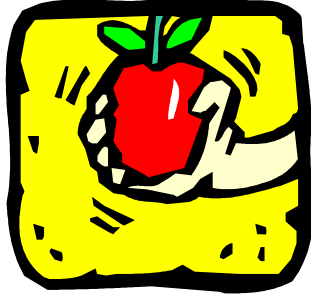


WE want to do

- Support what we choose to do
- Talk with kids at dinner about school, future plans
- Have dinner with us on a regular basis
- Encourage involvement in extracurricular activities, service clubs
- Motivate and inspire by setting positive examples
- Get other adults involved in working with us and encouraging us
- Be more open to new ideas
- Be aware of what's going on in our lives
- Show interest in our education, including homework
- Support other adults who work with us (teachers, youth workers...)
- Help us realize the assets we need to gain while pointing out and appreciating the assets we already have
- Teach us something you're good at
- Commit to building assets yourself



Highlights - January 28th Meeting



Sarah Carten, a Community Nutritionist from the Fraser Health Authority, spoke on the topic of “Healthy Eating, Healthy Minds” at the January 28th DPAC General Meeting. Some of her contact information is reproduced below.

- School Fund Raising Ideas from the Community Nutritionists Council of BC www.healbc.ca/schools.htm
- Shop Smart Tours – contact Save-On-Foods
- Milk rewards, programs and videos from the B.C. Dairy Foundation <http://www.bcdairyfoundation.ca> or (604) 294-3775
- School foods tool kit www.cspinet.org/schoolfoods
- “An Ounce of Prevention” an on-line report by the B.C. Provincial Health Officer at http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/pho/pdf/o_prevention.pdf

For further information contact Sarah Carten, at (604) 777-8706.

Healthy Choices Resolution The following resolution was presented at the November 26th DPAC General Meeting by the Pitt River Middle School PAC:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: DPAC request and lobby the School Board Trustees and District 43 staff to change the Food Service Program currently offered in District 43 school cafeterias to have healthier choices and to discontinue offering fast food content that has little or no nutritional value. Parents must also have input within their own school into the menu options offered.



At our January 28th DPAC General meeting, the resolution was defeated. Several PACs spoke out that although they supported the resolution in principle, they had difficulty with the exact wording. It was confirmed that if the resolution was re-worded it could once again be presented to the DPAC membership.

DPAC Funding At the November 18th School Board meeting, DPAC Treasurer Dave Allen presented a request for \$7500 in additional DPAC funding for this year. The District is the only source of external funding for DPAC. Additional money was requested because of our expanded parent education programs and the need to replace and train new Advocates for our Advocacy program. Unfortunately at their January 27th meeting, the Board denied DPAC’s request at this point in time.



DPAC Advocacy Project We are still looking for new volunteer advocates. If you are interested in assisting other parents to resolve their child’s concerns and issues in the school district, please contact the DPAC Office for an application form.

2004
School Calendar:

February 20
District Pro D Day

March 12
Schools close for
Spring Vacation

March 22
Schools reopen after
Spring Vacation

April 9
Good Friday

April 12
Easter Monday

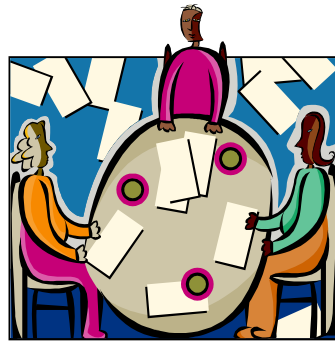
District 43 Parent
Advisory Council
1100B Winslow Ave.
Coquitlam, BC
V3J 2G3

Phone:
604-939-3690
Fax:
604- 939-3695
e-mail:
dpac43@telus.net

We're on the Web!
www.dpac.citysoup.ca

DPAC
ADVOCACY HOTLINE:
604-939-0111

SPC Contact Info The DPAC office would like to obtain contact information for all of the District's SPCs. This will facilitate better contact between SPCs, PACs and DPAC and will assist in distributing pertinent SPC information to all of the Councils. Please send just the name of your SPC PAC Executive Rep to the DPAC office along with their phone number, fax number, and e-mail address.



BCCPAC

The BCCPAC will be holding its AGM "Celebrating the Mosaic" on May 15th, 16th, and 17th at the Hilton Metrotown in Burnaby. Complete information will be sent out in February's BCCPAC member mail-out. Information will also be on-line at www.bccpac.bc.ca

District 43 DPAC will be co-hosting a **BCCPAC Networking Day on April 3rd**. Lower mainland DPAC Executives, and possibly some in the Fraser Valley as well, will be invited to participate.

School District #43

At the January 13th Board Meeting, the Trustees announced that they would **no longer send official designates to community advisory committees**. This means that there will no longer be a designated Trustee at monthly DPAC General meetings although each Trustee is still free to attend as a member of the public. The DPAC Executive is concerned that the Board will lose a valuable source of parental /constituent input if at least one Trustee is not mandated to attend. DPAC reps have been asked to canvass their individual PACs to see if this is in fact a common concern and bring the results back to the February 25th DPAC General Meeting.

School Community News



How to Get Better Grades in School – Terry Small Presentation, Tuesday March 2nd, 7-9 pm, Gleneagle Secondary School, 1195 Lansdowne Drive, Coquitlam.
Register: Coquitlam Education 936-4261 Cost \$42/family

The DPAC Newsletter is distributed via email only. PACs can print out copies for circulation as needed. To publicize an upcoming speaker, conference, or school event send an email to the DPAC office with "newsletter" in the subject line. The monthly deadline is the date of the DPAC General Meeting.

