



DPAC Newsletter

School District #43

December 2003

Volume 1, Number 3

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



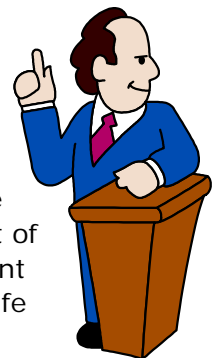
Happy Holidays from DPAC

Wishing you and yours all the best over the holiday season and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year!

Your DPAC Executive

"Giving Our Kids What They Need to Succeed"

Twenty years ago, researchers discovered 40 factors that appeared important in the development of happy, respectful and responsible young people. These 40 factors were called Developmental Assets. They are simply life building blocks we now know are important factors in the successful development of all children and young people. Most importantly, they represent practical, common sense things that people from all walks of life can do every day to help nurture all young people who are or could be within their influence. Parents, grandparents, neighbours, teachers, shopkeepers, in fact anyone with a healthy and sincere interest in young people can have a role to play.



To help make this happen, DPAC is hosting an introduction to "Asset Building" presentation by Keith Pattinson of Delta, BC

January 14th Winslow Center Gallery Rm from 7 to 9 pm

To guaranty a seat please R.S.V.P. to Claude Hrycaiko, DPAC Parent Education Coordinator, at 604-942-5013 or claudefh@shaw.ca

Keith is a father, grandfather, and professional youth worker who has worked with children and families for over forty years. He has been acknowledged by hundreds of Canadian audiences as a master storyteller whose message offers hope, encouragement, and practical ideas for those of us who wish to become increasingly significant influences in the lives of young people.

Tamara Ramusovic, President of the SD#43 Student Leadership Council (SLC), will give an introduction. The SLC fully supports the implementation of the "Youth Matters!" asset building program in our District and recently persuaded our Board of Trustees to declare the week of February 16th to 20th "Asset Building Week".

For more information about this initiative see www.search-institute.org

DATES TO REMEMBER:

DPAC

- January 14th
"Asset Building"
Presentation
7 pm Gallery Room Winslow Center
Speakers: Keith Pattinson & Tamara Ramusovic
- January 28th
DPAC General Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room Winslow Center
Speaker: Sarah Carten – Nutritionist Fraser HA

- February 18th
"Creating Safer Schools"
BCCPAC
Workshop 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center

- February 25th
DPAC General Meeting 7 pm
Gallery Room
Winslow Center
Presentation:
Consortium 43

SD #43

- Board Meetings
2004 7:30 pm
January 6
January 27
February 17
550 Poirier St.
Coquitlam

- February 4
School Planning Councils
Session re:
Budget Process
Winslow Center
(TBC)

Health and Welfare



Healthy Presentation

A reminder that Sarah Carten, a nutritionist from the Fraser Health Authority, will be speaking on "Healthy Eating, Healthy Minds" at the

DPAC General Meeting January 28th 7 pm

Healthy Choices?

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.



The rationale for this resolution was circulated with the November 26th DPAC GM agenda. If you are in need of a copy, please contact the DPAC office. PACs are urged to discuss this resolution at their next PAC meeting and be prepared to vote on it at our January 28th DPAC general meeting. If you have any additional questions about the resolution please contact Robyn Cambrey, PAC Chairperson at Pitt River Middle School, 604-464-6708.

Healthy Choices: A School District #43 Perspective



The following motion was brought before the School Board Trustees at their December 9th meeting by Trustee Burton.

WHEREAS school districts have a responsibility to protect the health and safety of students; and

WHEREAS the consumption of "junk" food is known to contribute to health problems among students; and

WHEREAS "junk" food is sold in Coquitlam schools; and

WHEREAS the public has an interest in ensuring that policy decisions impacting on student health are made publicly and in consultation with the community;



BE IT RESOLVED that the District review its policies and procedures pertaining to the sale and provision of food and beverages to students.

Concern was expressed that a review is a costly and time-consuming process for participants and District staff. *The Trustees voted to postpone considering this motion until after consultation with District partner groups*

to determine if this is an issue that all groups would support reviewing.

2003/2004
School Calendar:

December 19
Schools close for
Winter Vacation

January 5
Schools reopen after
Winter Vacation

February 20
District Pro D Day

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

Phone:
604-939-3690
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604-939-3695
email:
dpac43@telus.net

... and we will soon be on
the Web!

DPAC
ADVOCACY HOTLINE:
604-939-0111

"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? This interactive workshop will explore how PACs and DPACs can participate creating safer schools for all students. Included is an overview of successful safe school strategies and resources developed by experienced organizations.

February 18th Winslow Center Gallery Rm from 7 to 9:30 pm
Please R.S.V.P. before December 31st to Claude Hrycaiko, DPAC Parent Education Coordinator, at 604-942-5013 or claudeh@shaw.ca

This session is open to all parents.

Copies of the BCCPAC booklet on bullying, "Call It Safe", are available at the DPAC office. They are also available in other languages from BCCPAC.

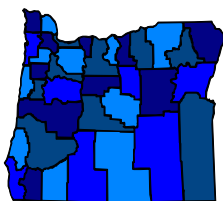
Updates

"Leading the Way" Workshop

Twenty people attended the "Leading the Way" BCCPAC workshop hosted by DPAC on November 19th. Copies of the handouts "Models of Decision-Making" and the "Guiding Principles for Meetings and Consensus Building" are available from Claude via e-mail at claudeh@shaw.ca

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. We hope to hold training sessions at the end of January 2004. Many parents find the position of volunteer advocate to be very rewarding!!



Secondary School Catchment Review

At their December 9th Board Meeting the Trustees decided to accept the Steering Committee Secondary School Catchment recommendations. The full report is on the SD#43 web site at www.sd43.bc.ca. If you require clarification, please contact your school Principal.

School Planning Councils District-Wide Meeting February 4th 2004

A District SPC funding priority questionnaire will be circulated shortly that must be completed by February 3rd. On February 4th at Winslow Center (TBC), there will be a meeting of all SD#43 SPCs in order to review the questionnaires and identify budget priorities.

Before the winter break, your Principal will receive a District document outlining your school's budget allocations. This should be reviewed by your SPC (and ultimately your PAC) as part of the 04/05 budgeting process and will assist you in completing the aforementioned questionnaire.



SD#43 Transportation Review

The Steering Committee report will be presented to the Trustees at their January 27th meeting with a response from the Board expected on February 17th. Thanks to all of those schools who provided survey input.

SD#43 Elects New Chair and Vice-Chair

At their December 9th meeting, the Board of School Trustees elected Melissa Hyndes as their Chairperson and Holly Butterfield Vice-Chair. They are one-year terms.

Highlights- November 29 Meeting

Terry Small gave an entertaining and informative presentation entitled "How to Help Your Child Succeed in School". He revealed 15 ways to get better grades while spending less time studying. For more information on Terry or to register to receive his semi-monthly newsletter, visit Terry's website at www.terrysmall.com



A School Planning Council Workshop is available from BCCPAC and DPAC is considering holding a session in our District. Please let Claude Hrycaiko (604-942-5013) know if your PAC would be interested in attending such a workshop.

Two DPAC Executive Positions are still available for the 2003/04 year, BCCPAC District Associate and Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in becoming involved at the District PAC level please talk to Linda Reimer at the DPAC office.

The Block Parent Program is alive and well. Volunteers for the program are needed, but be aware that criminal record checks are mandatory.



Canadian Parents for French has \$200 grants available to schools for purchasing French library materials. Contact Kerry van Aswegan or Cameron Irvine at the DPAC office for details.

Communication problems? If you are not receiving your DPAC "email outs" contact Sandy Maloney at the DPAC office. Send her an email with your address in the text body and she will add you to the email list.

School District #43

A Web Steering Committee has been established to review both the School District 43 intranet and the external Website. The committee is currently



looking at the internal school district/employee net but will be looking at the School District Website next. At that time, parents will be asked to provide feedback via survey, questionnaire or possibly even an interview!

This year's District Technology Grant is \$200,000, which must be used for the purchase of computer hardware. This fund will automatically be dispersed to each school in the District based on their enrollment numbers. Each school will then decide how to spend their grant money.

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 GM.

