Arklan Parent Council Minutes  
October 12, 2021

1. Principal’s Report  
     
   Happy to be welcoming many new families to Arklan. We are up to 372 students from about 320 last year.

Welcome to our new Vice Principal, Nikki Desrosiers who will also be working with special education and Grade 6 French Immersion classes.

Thank you to teachers for being cooperative and understanding during these times. Hiring for additional teaching and support staff is ongoing especially with a shortage of French teachers in Ontario.

Fundraising: Arklan is now signed up with an online payment system through My Family Room and both Mrs. Osborne and Mme Ward will be trained on how to use the system. We haven’t heard yet if we will be permitted to start fundraising again but are hoping to hear more by November. When fundraising can resume, payments will hopefully be able to be made through the My Family Room app to help cut down on the amount of cash that has to be handled.

Very proud to announce that Arklan raised over $5000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Way to go Wildcats!

PPE Protocols: Plenty of PPE available for staff. Students have been really good with remembering masks. Some still have to be reminded about social distancing but all in all, things are going well so far. Air purifying units have been installed in all classrooms in the school.

Mental Health Strategy: The school is happy to have Mme Best as their Mental Health Chairperson. New mental health activities are introduced to classes every Monday and practiced throughout the week. Wednesdays are Wellness Wednesdays and Mrs Swrjeski will often walk students through an exercise over the PA. Families are invited to check out the Parent and Family page on School Mental Health Ontario.

Snack Bins: Mrs. Osborne is looking for volunteers to help with the snack bin program. Volunteers are required for approximately 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes at the end of the day to help fill and empty bins. Volunteers must have proof of vaccination.

1. Elections: Due to lack of nomination forms, elections will be moved to our November meeting. Anyone wishing to be a voting member of parent council should fill out a form and return it to Kate Osborne before our November meeting. All parents are welcome to join meeting but only voting members will be able to vote on matters.
2. Team Travelers: With STEO enforcing distance limits for students riding the bus, there are lots of families who are looking for a walking buddy or walking group for their children. Team Travelers is completely parent organized and helps connect parents with other families in the neighborhood so they can organize safe walking groups to and from school. Information will be added to our Arklan Parent Facebook page.
3. Facebook Parent Page: It has been pointed out that there are still parents on the Arklan Parent Page who no longer have children who attend Arklan. In the interest of privacy, a post will be made asking anyone who no longer has children attending Arklan to kindly remove themselves from the page. Those who do not do so by the end of the week will be removed.
4. Next Meeting : November 2, 2021