

Sidney Elementary School PAC



2017/2018

PAC AND YOU

What is the PAC?

The Parent Advisory Council is the organized voice of parents on matters relating to your student's education. Although we have elected select executive members, every parent/guardian with a child at Sidney Elementary School is a member of the PAC. You can get involved at any point in the year, and we encourage you to attend the monthly meetings!

PAC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the school Learning Commons. The meeting agenda is distributed in the week preceding each meeting. If you have a topic to discuss, let us know in advance, or just come to a meeting! We always set aside time for new business.

We welcome fresh ideas & new volunteers. The wonderful school events your kids love don't just come out of nowhere – the PAC is directly involved in everything from the Spring Fling (our school's biggest fundraiser!) to budgeting for field trips or miscellaneous special treats (such as Beaver Tails for the French Carnival!).

We are an open and inclusive group. The business of the Council will be unbiased in respect of race, religion, gender, politics, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability. Please always feel welcome to come to meetings, or contact us at any point!

You do your part by informing the school when your child will not be in class. But do you know what goes on at the other end of the Safe Arrival line?

SAFE ARRIVAL

A critical part of student safety.

When your child is absent or late from school, who do you call?

Safe Arrival! (250-656-7425)

A parent volunteer manages the Safe Arrival phone line every school morning. This volunteer will cross reference class attendance sheets with the phone messages and calls from parents, to make sure that each child is where they are supposed to be. Follow up phone calls will be made if a student is not accounted for.

We can always use more volunteers in this critical position. It only takes about one hour of your morning. Please get in touch if you can help next year!

THE PAC EXECUTIVE

Meet the team!

There are four essential executive positions that need to be filled for the PAC to function. If these positions are not filled, the PAC must dissolve and any funds raised must be distributed to nearby schools. For this school year (2017/2018) our PAC Executive members were: Kristina LittleJohns (President), Jessi Petrick (Vice President), Anita Dzus-Spady (Secretary), Christina Smith (Treasurer).

On May 18, 2018, our Annual General Meeting was held, where we voted on our new executive for the coming 2018/2019 school year. Meet our new Executive members:



Lesley Goodwin
President

Lesley became a Sidney School parent in 2012. She has two children, one now headed to middle school and one entering fourth grade. She began attending PAC meetings in 2017 to see what the PAC was all about. She quickly realized what a great group of people attended, and how many valuable contributions the PAC makes. Lesley was elected as President for the upcoming school year, and is looking forward to the year to come.



Anita Spady
Vice President

Anita became a Sidney School parent in 2012. She has three children, one heading to middle school in September, one starting grade 3, and one just entering Kindergarten in the fall. Anita starting attending PAC meetings in 2015 to find out more about what happens behind the scenes and to see how she could help out. Anita was elected as Co-Secretary last year, and was nominated for Vice-President this coming school year, something she is excited about as it is rewarding to be a part of the school community.



Christina Smith
Treasurer

Christina is going on to her second year as the PAC treasurer. We truly appreciate her knowledge and organization of the PAC finances. It's a big job and we are so lucky to have Christina as our treasurer!



Jessie Wellbourn
Secretary

Jessie has been a Sidney School parent since 2016. She began attending PAC meetings during her daughters kindergarten year, and took the position of Communications in hopes of expanding the reach of the PAC voice. Jessie was elected to the Secretary position at the 2018 AGM meeting and will also continue her Communications duties.

NON-EXECUTIVE PAC MEMBERS

Dedicated, active volunteers.

The PAC has some positions that are incredibly helpful to have filled, but are not executive positions and therefore not essential to maintain the council as a whole. We greatly appreciate the time and energy all our members put in to the school.



Alison Scott
Safe Arrival

Alison has been a parent at Sidney school since 2011. She has a daughter entering grade 5 and a son entering grade 7. She took over coordinating Safe Arrival in 2012. Alison finds it incredibly rewarding to get to know all the families at school and volunteering with our kids' activities and fundraising efforts. We've established a great team of volunteers (including Lesley, PAC president) but we're always looking for Safe Arrival volunteers. Please get in touch if you have an hour to spare once in a while.



Christina M Smith
Earthquake Kit Coordinator

Christina has been a Sidney School parent since 2014 and attended the school herself as a child. She has 4 children. Her oldest daughter starts Grade 5 and her middle daughter starts Kindergarten in September and she also has 8 month old twin girls at home. She was Vice President of the PAC for 3 years and has been the schools Earthquake Kit Coordinator since 2014. In this role she makes sure that we have the supplies needed for all students and staff for 72 hrs in the case of an emergency.



Maggie duMonceaux
Hot Lunch Coordinator

Maggie has been a Sidney School parent since 2008. Her son is heading into Grade 10 at Parklands and her daughter will be in her final grade 5 year at Sidney in Sept. Maggie was the Secretary of the PAC for two years before deciding to try something new which was when she took on the Hot Lunch program in 2016. Seeing the excitement of the kids faces on Hot Lunch days makes it all worthwhile! Sidney is a fantastic school with exceptional staff and her family feels so lucky to have been a part of this school's sense of community for the past 10 years.



Terrisa Tate
Breakfast Club

Terrisa began attending PAC meetings in 2017, during her daughters kindergarten year. She took on Breakfast Club that year and has continued in that position since. She is occasionally helped in the kitchen by Lesley, and various student helpers. Her older daughter will be starting grade 2, and her youngest starting kindergarten in September.



Position Available
Fundraising Coordinator

At this point we do not have a Fundraising Coordinator for the 2018/2019 school year. If you are interested in this position, please contact the PAC. Having a member dedicated to the organization of our fundraising events is very important and much needed! Our previous Fundraising Coordinator, Christine Etele, will be happy to help a new volunteer take over.

HOT LUNCH DAY

Wrapping up the year

Hot Lunch Day is generally agreed upon as a crowd favorite among the students. If you've ever helped distribute lunches on a Hot Lunch Day, you'll know how excited the students are – they know that after coming in from lunch recess, they will magically have pizza and/or sushi on their desks! Chocolate milk or juice, and cookies too! Life couldn't get much better than that.

The PAC greatly appreciates the students who stay inside to help us deliver lunches. It is so helpful to have students who are familiar with classrooms and student names, to help us get the right lunches on the right desks. In the 40 minutes of recess, our parent and student volunteers need to deliver lunch to our 300+ students. It is quite a feat to accomplish!

Maggie duMonceaux has been our Hot Lunch Coordinator since 2016. She handles the order forms and coordinates delivery of Panago and Thrifty Foods on the day. Moving forward, Maggie is helping us transition to ordering hot lunches online – this change will make it more straightforward for families to order, and easier for Maggie to handle orders on her end. We understand and can accommodate any families that will still need to use paper order forms, but we hope all can appreciate the effort to go paperless.

Sadly, 2018/2019 will be Maggie's last school year with us. If you or someone you know can volunteer to be our Hot Lunch Coordinator from that point on, please reach out to Maggie to learn the ropes.



Left to right: Anita Spady, Maggie duMonceaux, Kelsey Graham



BREAKFAST CLUB

A healthy start to the day

Every morning at school, we have a parent in the PAC kitchen making smoothies and handing out healthy snacks for hungry kids. This project is dedicated to helping students start their day feeling full and happy. We believe a healthy breakfast is key to starting the day right.

The food served has been donated by Norgarden. Sidney Elementary frequently collaborates with Norgarden, and we always appreciate their contributions to our community.

As the year went on, we moved toward having more student helpers in the kitchen. If you stop by the kitchen now, you'll frequently see intermediate students serving smoothies and snacks to their peers. The students enjoy helping, and our parent volunteers greatly enjoy the extra hands! The area is always busy and full of laughter and smiles.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The PAC has a hand in nearly every special event at the school. The following are just a few of the fun things from this year!

Teacher's Appreciation Lunch

Every year we host a special lunch to show Sidney teachers and staff our appreciation for their hard work and dedication to our children's education. This event is always much appreciated - thank you to everyone who donated food and treats and helped with set up and clean up!



Top: Lisa Duong, Maggie duMonceaux, Anita Spady
Bottom: Jessi Petrick, Christina M Smith

Movie Nights

As with previous years, the two movie nights in the school gym were wonderful fun. We watched "Home" in October and "Storks" in February, had pizza and popcorn, and it was overall a successful event. Movie nights require parent volunteers – if you can help next year, please get in touch!

Parents' Night Out

In December, Sidney PAC and Keating Home and School Association organized a parent's night out to see the movie A Bad Moms Christmas at Sidney's Star Cinema. This was a fantastic social night and a fun way to partner with Keating. This event brought in a total of \$714 profit!

Holiday Fair

The Annual Holiday Fair was a great event – there were 39 vendors, and some were immediately requesting to be back next year! The fair itself had a total profit of \$1597.16, and the holiday raffle had a profit of \$8328.



Grade 5 Farewell

Congratulations to our students moving on to middle school! The Grade 5's had their farewell event at the beach on June 21. The PAC supplied cupcakes for the event.



Fun Day

The PAC provided freezies and Lesley and Anita (PAC President and Vice President) helped distribute them at Fun Day. Secretary Jessie was also on hand spending the morning playing hula hoops with the kids.

Potluck Breakfast

The final event of the school year is the Potluck Breakfast. This is a fun event that allows the students to say their goodbyes to friends and teachers. Sign Up Genius is used to track food items being brought, and extra volunteers for cleanup are always welcome!

Spring Fling

As our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Spring Fling is always a team effort with many pieces to organize to host a successful event. The PAC creates a Spring Fling Committee who meet separately to handle organization of vendors, games, prizes, food, etc. As is with much else that the PAC does, this event is entirely volunteer run. We would like to give a huge appreciation to all the helpers we had and the many businesses who donated silent auction items, and once again also mention that we can always use more volunteers! We tend to run low on numbers, especially near the end of the evening. This year it was specifically requested that we look into more efficient ways to handle clean up at the end of the night. We would like more parent involvement in the future, please get in touch if you can help next year. The PAC loves to host fun activities for our children and community, and these couldn't happen without the support from parent and guardian volunteers in our school.

The students had Mr Vickers go for a plunge in the dunk tank!





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TEACHER'S FRESHGRADE PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

After discussion at the January PAC meeting, an educational night was planned for teachers to speak with parents about FreshGrade and its uses. At Sidney Elementary, our teachers are all on board with using FreshGrade to some degree – teachers individual use of the program varies depending on their personal skill level.

The goal of the presentation was to answer parent questions and bring clarity around the use of FreshGrade. Main questions from parents were regarding report cards - see below, excerpt from the June PAC meeting minutes:

“Main questions seem to be about report cards and how it should look to the parents. There won't be a formal report card; it is more of an ongoing assessment. At the end of year in June there will be a summary sent home as well as a permanent copy on their student record.”

The information night had a small turnout but was overall a success. We greatly appreciate the teachers who took the time to host this event with us!

CROSSWALK AT CHICKORY & HENRY



After multiple parents spoke up regarding concerns about the crosswalk at Chickory and Henry streets, the PAC and school administration worked together to reach out to the Town of Sidney to make the area safer.

We saw an immediate response which led to the construction of the new crosswalk design, complete with crosswalk lights and extended sidewalk.

This moment really showcased the way that we as parents and guardians can truly make positive changes when we work together.

The PAC and school admin are grateful for the quick response from the town for approving construction of the crosswalk, and to the RCMP for agreeing to monitor the area more closely in the future.

Please remember to drive slowly in school zones and watch for pedestrians – we must all work together to make our area safe!



FUNDRAISERS

Thrifty's Smile Cards

If you shop at Thrifty's, come get a smile card from us! It's easy - we give you a card, you top it up and get shopping! Thrifty's donates 5% of the card balance to the PAC.

NEW: Peninsula Co-Op

Just in time for summer road trips, we have set up a membership with Peninsula Co-Op. Use our membership number **#115743** at Peninsula Co-Op or participating Save-On Gas locations, and at the end of the year the PAC will receive a cheque rebate for a percentage of every purchase made with the membership.

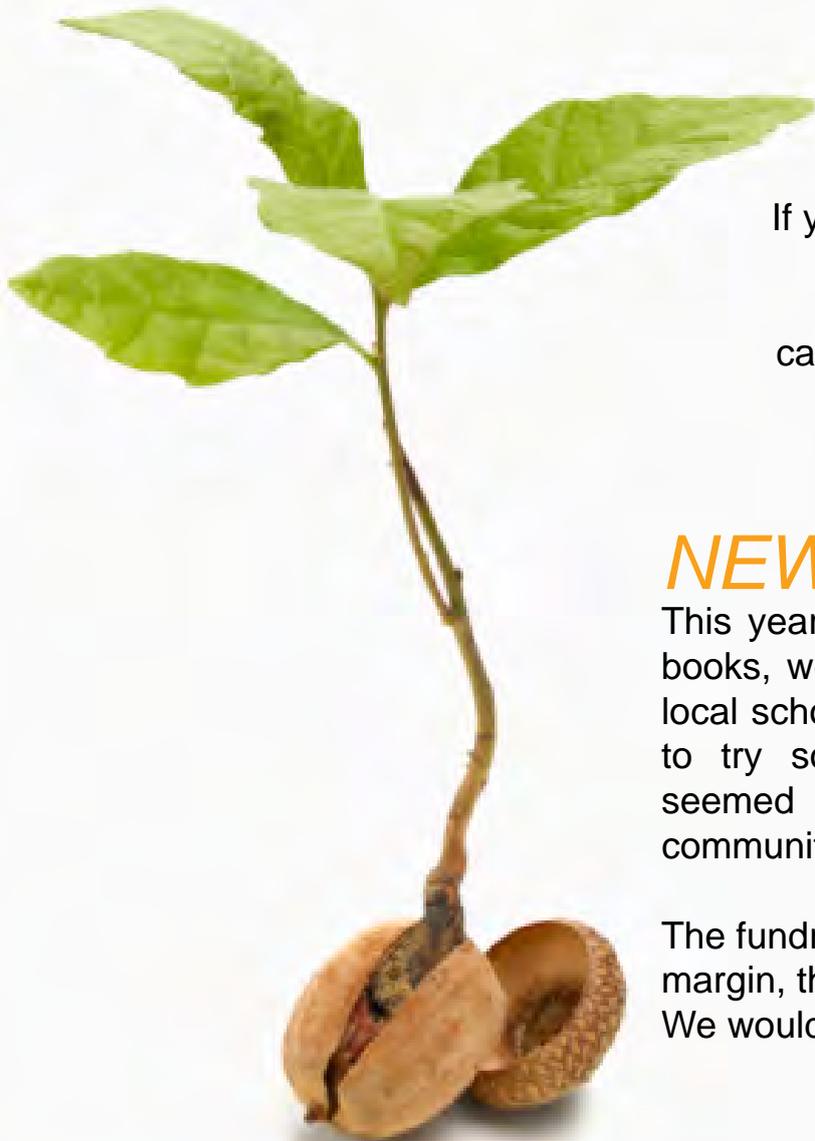
NEW: Mabel's Labels

If you are planning on purchasing from Mabel's Labels, be sure to select Sidney Elementary School PAC from the drop down menu at campaigns.mabelslabels.com and the PAC will receive 20% from all sales!

NEW: West Coast Seeds

This year in lieu of selling the Save Around coupon books, we sold West Coast Seeds. There are many local schools that sell coupon books, and we wanted to try something different – West Coast Seeds seemed an appropriate and desired item in our community.

The fundraiser was over all a success. At a 40% profit margin, the total amount raised was \$521.15. We would love to hear your feedback!



SPECIAL DONATION

Charmaine Lee from the Army, Navy, and Air Force Unit 302, presented our Sidney Elementary PAC with a generous donation of \$1500. Our parents are very thankful for this gift and will be putting it towards our project to build an outside learning space. We are so grateful for the support. PAC members Kristina Littlejohns, Jessi Petrick and Christine Etele were present to accept the donation.



A MESSAGE FROM KRISTINA, PAST PRESIDENT

I started coming to PAC Meetings 8 years ago when my eldest was in Grade One. I wanted to know more about what was going on at the school. I liked listening to the upcoming events and being able to ask questions to our Administrators.

I started volunteering, then headed up fundraising for a few years, and have been the President for the last 2 years. We have a really amazing team of volunteers! I feel grateful to have been a part of this hard working group of parents & guardians. I've found many people who truly believe in school community building.

A lot of these first steps for our kids in Elementary School are also big steps for their parents watching them go to Kindergarten. It's much easier to raise your kids in a community when you know your neighbours and the PAC helps parents get to know more people that support each other. This is valuable to our families.

Our family has one more year at the school and I will be acting as Past President to help the new Executive transition into their roles. Leslie and Anita will do an amazing job as your President and Vice! They are both friendly, easy to talk to, logical thinkers, work well as team, and have some great new ideas to share! Wishing you all the best in the upcoming year!

Next year my youngest will be the oldest at school... where do the years go?! Enjoy every minute because it goes by quickly.

Cheers,
Kristina Littlejohns



See you in September!

Find us on Facebook!

facebook.com/sidneyelementaryschool

Facebook page managed by Jessie Wellbourn and Lesley Goodwin

Contact us!

PAC: *sidneypac@sd63.bc.ca*

Hot Lunch: *sidneyhotlunch@gmail.com*

Fundraising: *sidneypacfundraising@gmail.com*

Learn • Inquire • Play • Grow • Breathe

SIDNEY

ELEMENTARY

Our Bee-liefs:

We take care of ourselves.

We take care of others.

We take care of this place.



Engage • Perform • Create • Build