

Courtland School Council
Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Attendance: Mike Coates, Sandy Falco, Desiree Hinsperger, Colin Nuber, Josephine Chang,
Agim Sadiku

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Principal's Report - Please spread the word of the Social Media Family Night - Paul Davis will be speaking about Internet Safety on Monday, November 29th. Students will hear from Paul during the day.
 - a. Black Student Group is meeting
 - b. Talk about Gay Straight Alliance getting started again.
 - c. So nice to see things starting to return to a little more normal
 - d. Progress Reports came home last week. A chance to have a discussion with students to set goals for further learning
 - e. PD Day was last Friday and there was a great session about School Improvement Plan narrowed down 3 primary goals - Wellness and Well-being for All (just opened a Wellness Room for students to use to practice tools to calm and ground themselves), Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools goal - inclusion for all, Character Development - creating kind citizens of the community (putting together nominations for Cougars C.A.R.E. recognition certificates) *All of these goals lead to improved learning climate for students
 - f. Also had a specific time for learning about Autistic students and how to support them in learning. There will be continued learning in this area. All staff have been challenged to set a goal to better support Autistic students (ex. Use more visuals in teaching). Many of the strategies used can be applicable for all students.
 - g. Parking Lot Design Thinking Project - Student ideas are being presented to the City and Transportation Services for consideration for a new Parking Lot. There are also hopes for the whole tarmac to create better play areas.
 - h. The WRDSB Director of Education - jeewa chanika visited the school today. He seems to have a great new vision for learning in the Region and Courtland was the 76th School he has visited this school year.
 - i. Parent Engagement Grant - a \$500 grant is available to try and engage parents more in the school. The parameters are very broad. This would require someone to take on the filling out of the forms. Please consider this as an
 - j. Sources for Strength presentation - Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council will be coming (virtually?) on December 2nd to discuss Suicide Prevention and Awareness. Parents will be given to "opt out" for your students once learning about the presentation.
 - k. COVID update - There will be rapid tests given out to students before the Winter Break to test periodically. This is an optional program. There will be more information coming about this. Schools may be used as vaccination centres (during off hours) - no students will be vaccinated without parental consent.

3. Ms. Falco - The running club will be wrapping up this week. There has also been an Environment Club and a Volleyball Club after school.
 - a. There is a card making club run by the Librarian - there is an opportunity to make "Thinking of You" Cards for seniors at a local Retirement Home - great chance to practice empathy and give back to the community
 - b. There are also many Library Helpers helping out at breaks
 - c. There will be Grade 8 Transition nights coming - nearly time to choose courses for Grade 9s
4. There was a question about cell phone use at school. Some students are using these during school and it can be distracting for other students. There are many ways that phones can be used for school work. Phones should be away unless permission is given by the teachers. There is no hard and fast "no cell phones" rule. This is an opportunity to learn about cell phone etiquette and ethics. It is important for people of all ages to learn how and when it is appropriate to use cell phones.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 7pm