

- Enrolment was where we expected. Facility services had listened to us, so we got the right amount of teachers for the number of students, and no realignment was required.
- We have had 3 fire drills and a lock down drill.
- Dental screening will continue through this week and lice checks are completed.
- Annual Sabrina's Law in-service was completed today, by Mr. Benedict. Reminder re epipens – child needs to always wear one and have one in the office as well. Please check expiry dates, and if medical status of a child changes, please let us know. Thanks for helping keep medical forms accurate.
- Re concern with traffic around the school, caused by the resurfacing of lanes on Eglinton Avenue, Kathy called Toronto Police Services, and Wilmar and Kathy did a walkabout with officers. As a result, they were able to get us a short term crossing-guard at Sutherland and Broadway, which was an impressive response. We are trying to get a permanent crossing-guard, so please sign the petition if you haven't already. There is a letter being crafted and will be co-signed by Wilmar, Kathy and Tracy Spence, Director of the Northlea Community Child Care, which will accompany the petition. The process is that everything must come from Toronto Police Services – funds, training, etc. Anyone can write a letter to them. They do a traffic assessment and determine if it is warranted. We have tried before and weren't successful, but we are taking a comprehensive approach by determining peak times and the appropriate time we can walk through it with them. The assessment may take several weeks.
- Parking enforcement is assisting with the Parent Safety Program – we temporarily shifted locations, trying something different based on feedback from the construction and traffic folks. We got a deferral for the signage and have now decided to put buses back to Rumsey and PSP on the south part of Sutherland. We know what works well and will get it permanently changed.
- The Birthday Book Program is a new initiative at Northlea. A number of our present books were purged, based on age and appropriateness of books. Although books are available in electronic form, this voluntary program is a fun way to engage students and get new books. If your child is having a birthday, Mabel's Fables will give a 20% discount on books. Our Librarian, Kerri Millar, met with them and put together a wish list of books. The child picks out a book they want to donate, and a plaque will be placed in the book they donate. We've had our first book donated - Kathy showed the attendees. Becky also commented that any donated books will be on display for a couple of weeks and then will go into a special bin so kids can see their book on display, before going into general circulation.
- We have many fundraisers at the school – many are driven by council, parents, staff, etc., like the Terry Fox Walk and Unicef, which we used to do at Hallowe'en. Recently, Kathy was approached by a student who talked about Holland Bloorview and Change For Kids. Every child will get a brochure to take home. Parents can go online and give \$5 to activate the card (activates 20 coins). You can give the coins to trick-or-treaters. They go online and enter a pin # to win prizes, e.g. a weekend trip to Great Wolf Lodge, and many other prizes. For every person that goes online to enter a pin, Scotiabank will give \$5 to Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. You can also go into Scotiabank and buy them or get additional cards through other stores/magazines, etc. One will be sent home with every child, and a letter will accompany it, to explain and direct you to the website. This is a great local cause.
- Kathy attended a meeting this week, regarding Leaside turning 100 – with Trustee Gershon, Superintendent Dickinson and representatives from Councillor Parker's office – re festivities we'll plan to celebrate this milestone. The celebration starts in early 2013 and lasts all year. More info will be in the newsletter this week. Other schools also attended the meeting.
- We are looking for parent volunteers to join parent-staff committees – Safe and Caring Schools committee (1/2 dozen parents took turns last year) and brand new – the FDK (Full Day Kindergarten) space accommodation committee. We need to look at our space and come up with a recommendation on how to accommodate full day by September 2014. We have 6 sessions of Kindergarten now and that will have to double, so we are looking for up to 3 more classrooms. We have to look at possibilities, and do walk-arounds, which is why we need a committee. We've addressed space concerns in the past and need to come together again on this. We are not yet sure exactly when the decision needs to be made, but certainly want to get ahead of it, as this is a major decision that needs input from parents, stakeholders, etc. There will be approximately 5

meetings throughout the year for each committee. The H&S /Council will be asking for volunteer names – let Wilmar or Sarah know if you are interested, or send an email to homeandschool@northleaschool.ca.

- Mike Kennedy, our new VP thanked everyone for making him feel welcome. He feels very lucky and thinks this is a great place to be. He was in Scarborough for most of his teaching, in the Phys Ed office, at Jane and Finch as a VP and then at Bedford Park. He has a daughter in Grade 1 and his wife is an educator in the neighbourhood. The red Honda motorcycle is his!
- Police Reference Checks take 8-12 weeks to process, and must go through Police Services. Annual offence declarations must be filled out each year, as they are only good for a period of 1 year (same as the initial check). Give completed forms to Mike. If you are going to volunteer in school, this must be completed. Grandparents must also do it – EVERYBODY! If you have already applied, there is a “grace period” to volunteer. The school is keeping track of who is cleared and who has applied, and we’ve allowed parents at beginning of the year because of the backlog. Sue Brookes suggested that the field trip form should be revised to ask if parent volunteers have clearance. There is a master list, at the office with Mrs Keith, and teachers can check there. Kathy said they have a plan in place to protect the confidential information and share with teachers, as needed. Class parents can also ask people to ensure they have reference checks before volunteering– Sandra Whittaker suggested that Sue Gray could ask all class parents to do this. Wilmar is going to work with Mike on a plan and the teachers will be updated.
- There was a transportation update from Becky Jenkins – moving buses back to Rumsey seems to be working well. There are still a few issues with cars stopping where they shouldn’t, but signage will get changed. They are trying to get an earlier start for buses arriving at 8:45-8:50. Board policy is that they run as scheduled for the first 2 weeks and then you can request a change in route times after that. Board and bus company have been good about making the switch back.
- Special Ed – our DD classes moved rooms – now on 2nd floor, and great for students in those classes. The students are less isolated and more visible within the school. They feel more part of the school community - when buses arrive, they’re taken to the back field to play with other children.
- There is a new research-based program taught by Denise Reiken – “Empower” – developed by Sick Kids. It works with children who have severe difficulty with literacy skills (ideally Grades 2-5). Ms Reiken is also involved in mentoring.
- Methods and Research teacher is new this year – Lindsay Borden. It’s been a great start to the year, making procedures more streamlined, and keeping teams informed. They have already had a team meeting, with another one tomorrow.
- On our website, we are starting to send flyers on community events, that have to do with children with learning disabilities or mental health issues – thank you for posting – it’s a great way to get info out to broader community.
- Professional development – there was a 3-part workshop from Surrey Place, on analyzing behavior. Have had 2 and another scheduled for next week.
- Becky spent the summer reading novels for Silver Birch selection committee. Students are eager to start with reading...usually starts in January, but nominees come out Oct 15th. You can look on Forrest of Reading website. We will start the official reading program when we get the books.
- Question was asked whether there was any discussion on enrichment opportunities for gifted children. There have been cuts in staffing (support workers) – so decision was made to use resources for kids who are struggling. It is up to the teacher to provide enrichment to kids. Julie Brown asked if there was any opportunity for parents to lobby. Response was that we know which students are identified or will be tested. Every child who is gifted can have a placement at other schools. We don’t have enough resource for the needs of all children, so that’s where resource has gone. Kathy thinks we’ve done a good job of addressing, but don’t have enough for everybody. Previous enrichment was staffing that we no longer have. Teachers are giving extra enrichment to kids in their class. If we had more, we could do more. If you have questions re how kids are formally identified as either gifted or needing an ISP, call Becky Jenkins.

- Concern was raised re buses moving back to Rumsey, blocking the cross-walk. Becky will go out in the afternoon at 3:30 to understand what is happening and speak to drivers.
- Intermediate Overnight Trips – update by Kathy – We do not have any trips booked currently for Grades 7 & 8. Usually, we would have a presentation for parents, but haven't had it because we haven't booked a tour company. With the labour unrest, schools are hesitant to book anything. Some other schools have also gone away from trips due to expense, additional stress on teachers, and children excluded in the past based on teacher's call. TDSB is about including all kids. Kathy will meet with the intermediate team once everything is resolved. Kathy will make a formal communication in the next week. Students need to know nothing is booked. Assuming teacher issues are resolved, Kathy will revisit. It is a year of uncertainty and unrest. Graduation trip is the highlight for Northlea students, so possibility that we may keep one trip as opposed to both. There was a question raised re whether there are opportunities for other Sheldon-like outdoor education sites.
- There was a question raised re whether the dances are still on, as one was cancelled last year. The dances are on, and request was made for teachers to communicate with students and teachers regarding any changes to these types of events.
- Question posed re the exclusion policy, and whether this is a new policy. Response was that for children who have trouble following instructions or need some form of support, it can work to have parents come along.
- Reminder that our play (musical) was cancelled in the spring.

6. PORTFOLIO UPDATE - SCHOOL SUPPORT – RACHEL CHERNOS-LIN AND KARA PEARSON-KANE

- Graduation – Julie Brown and Sandra Whittaker are heading it up, and it is going well.
- We are moving to once a month volunteers for Safe Arrival – we've streamlined the process and it is working well.
- PSP – there has been a good response with new volunteers.
- Safe Schools – Rachel Chernos-Lin and Amy Carter have already volunteered.
- Congratulations given on the new September packages.
- Confirmation that Northlea is a "Nut Safe" ("Nut Free" can not be guaranteed) school. Send Wilmar/Kathy any concerns re the policy.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FILE – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- There have been various documents sent to us – a newsletter from People for Education, announcing a conference Nov 3/4 - \$60/day or \$100 for both days
- A free conference has been organized for Nov 11 by TDSB – PIAC/Parent Involvement Advisory Committee – on education policy, discipline issues, special education, etc.
- An older safety alert re street robberies – letter from Kathy re Street Safety
- Newsletter from OFHSA - the Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations
- EQAO results that were released a few weeks ago – will have a separate H&S meeting that will be booked for it (might be November or January)
- Question was raised whether, with new bleachers in place, there is any increase in security/safety issues. There have been no increased issues we think is a result of this. We have blocked off fields to cars, and the bleachers are being used, which is great.

8. Q&A

- Construction update by Julie Brown– there have been transportation issues, with parking prohibition signs on Sutherland and Rumsey. The signage will be cleaned up, as changes will happen on both Rumsey and Sutherland. We got a deferral on submission to City Council – now need to go to Transportation Services and re-submit. Gates in childcare parking lot are not completed yet. Some touch-ups to be done – lines in teachers lot and lines in childcare lot, handicap spot needs to be painted in childcare lot (previous one was not a legal size). Tree protection mesh can then come down.

MOTION Kara Pearson-Kane; Nancy Baillie
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

- Fundscrip is a national company offering gift cards. Various percentages are given back to our school. We did fairly well last year, raising \$1000. We need to give it a push this year - mid-October period is the right time to start this up again ahead of the holiday season.
- FFN (Family Fun Night) is an event in end of February, or early March. It is our largest fundraiser. We are looking for chairs for this year. The H&S/Council Executive is also looking at different ways to do this event. There is a good chance we may remove some events and move them to a separate event.
- Julie Brown has agreed to do a simple survey re fundraising. We give a lot of money to different causes and want to make sure we have good parent feedback. The survey will take 2-3 minutes and is electronic. This is about taking the pulse of the community – it is not a binding commitment. We also need a critical mass of response, to make the feedback meaningful.
- Tremblett's Valu-Mart is supporting Sarah's food drive. There is a challenge between Northlea and Rolph/Bessborough schools. Boxes are not full yet, and you can also donate online. We don't have as much food as last year. Kathy has started her own challenge with Bessborough!

5. HOME & SCHOOL BUDGET – SUE BROOKES

- Sue took the group through the report ending September 30, 2012 – this is the last statement that closes our books for the 2011/2012 year. Our net revenue was \$67,390, with closing reserves of \$20,946. This was compared to banks, who typically only keep reserves of \$5K.

MOTION Nancie Bailly, Aly Alibhai
 TO ACCEPT THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENSES CARRIED

- Sue then discussed the setting of the H&S budget for this year (2012/2013). Through fundraising, we expect net revenues of \$50,900, with closing reserves of \$72,996.
- There was a request, from Sandra Whittaker, for final #'s from graduation.
- Question raised whether we should have a budget for FFN if we don't have a chair for the event. Bottom line is that we need to find chairs and can always edit the budget in a few months' time, if necessary (through a motion to amend budget). We are looking to potentially revise the FFN – Lynda and the H&S/Council Executive will look at changes. Melanie suggested getting some of the people involved in the event together, to talk about how to manage it and entice others to take on the event. There has been a mixed response of those who want to come back again this year. There are three things to balance: put on a great event, make money from the parent community, and not burn out parent volunteers. We are looking at ways to reinvigorate it all.

MOTION Sandra Whittaker, Stephen Peirce
 TO APPROVE BUDGET AND COMMUNITY DISBURSEMENTS CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- Kara Pearson-Kane asked about when we will review EQAO results – Wilmar responded that these will be reviewed in either the November or January H&S meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- The next meeting will be in November – stay tuned for the actual date.

MOTION Jacqueline Fraser, Julia Irwin
 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm