

## **WALTON ELEMENTARY PAC**

### **Presidents' Annual Report**

#### **School Year of 2013/2014**

For the information of all PAC members and the friends and supporters of our community our bylaws stipulate for the President to submit an annual report in writing of the PAC activities during the school year. As co-chairing presidents this year, it is our pleasure to provide this summary.

#### **Our Organization This Year**

Walton PAC continued to grow, both in the number of our members and in the size and complexity of our organization, reflecting the rising number of students enrolled in our school and the challenges in modern education.

This year, we had 30 parents working for the PAC in 16 elected positions and on various committees; this is not even counting the liaison parents to our 21 divisions and the numerous volunteers who helped out with their time and expertise at all our undertakings throughout the year. In the name of the entire community, we would like to express our thanks to all these people without whose generous support and unflagging friendship none of our activities would have been possible. Walton is a large, friendly, supportive and inclusive community. The incredible amount of goodwill and expertise we have been able to tap into all year has made a very successful year possible and makes working for this community a truly rewarding and happy experience - thank you, everyone.

#### **New Website and Paperless Payment Methods**

During the past years, this PAC has worked towards making communication among the parents, with the staff and administration and with others more effective and swift, going mostly paperless and relying on our database of e-mail contacts.

In the fall of 2013, as a logical next step, we started working on **establishing our own website**, so as to display our activities better, facilitate communication and registering for after school classes, and provide a hub for parents to find school-related information and links. The PAC would like to extend special thanks to Walton mom Megan Risk for doing most of the design, programming and technical work on this project and continuing to be the manager of the new website throughout the school year. The site went live on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and

continues to be invaluable to everyday PAC business, such as registering volunteers for events, informing new parents about procedures and activities at Walton and providing a platform to advertise fundraising and community events. We also think it looks really neat!

One of the advantages of owning a website is that we now have the option to register students for after school classes online, where their parents can now also pay for the class, using PayPal, a secure electronic processing method. Waivers and forms can be filled in and filed online, reducing legwork for the officers and more convenient for the participants.

### **PAC Events and Calendar Summary**

This is a brief enumeration of the various events the PAC organized over the course of the school year to refresh your memories. Again, our heartfelt thanks go out to the amazing PAC officers, all our parent volunteers, our wonderful Walton teaching and supportive staff and the unusually dedicated administration, for making all of these highlights possible.

Sept. 3, 2013	Welcome Coffee served to parents during attendance on the first day of school
Sept. 6, 2013	Our great International Potluck was back. Students, staff and visiting families were served in two shifts off our huge buffets in the gym. Special thanks to our custodian Mrs Campbell for dealing with all the garbage afterwards!
Sept. 23, 2013	Information Night for parents new to the PAC or to our school, held in English, Mandarin and Korean. Thanks to our Mandarin Liaison Sabrina and Korean Liaison Diane, also to Grace Chan and Samantha Loo for child-minding during the event.
Sept. 27, 2013	First of four Family Movie Nights held in Walton's gymnasium. Our concession moved to offer more healthy snacks and drinks this year.
Sept. 30, 2013	First of eight general meetings of Walton Elementary PAC is held.
October 2013	Art Cards by Kids fundraising event in collaboration with the teachers, creating beautiful artwork by our students that parents could buy as professional printed greeting cards.
Dec. 19, 2013	Christmas Concerts at Walton, with the famous PAC Bake Sale.
Feb. 28, 2014	Good-Bye Party for Principal Sandra Meister, with an unforgettable song and dance number by Craig Woods and the Walton Senior Wildcats. Special thanks to Melanie Lee for organizing the event and to Joanna Kovacs for being the song and dance coach!
April 25, 2014	Our big fundraising gala event, Sip N Savour is a huge success after

	months of preparation and legwork. Thanks to organization committee leaders Nicola Ho and Yvonne Chow for bringing it off! The students contributed large art canvasses that were auctioned off during the event. Great work, all divisions! Thanks to Ms Evans for her commitment to creating all these beautiful pictures.
May 21, 2014	PAC representation at Welcome to Kindergarten
May 27, 2014	Last of eleven Hot Lunches served to participating students and staff in the gym. Our popular pizza lunches follow the healthy eating rules for elementary schools and double as community events and fundraisers.
June 6, 2014	Concession stand during Sports Day provides healthy snacks and drinks to the community.

### **Health And Safety**

PAC parents continued to help with the health, safety and well-being of the students in several initiatives.

The parents are charged to keep ready and update a **supply of emergency food and water** in case of earthquakes or other natural disasters. We continued to collect funds for the regular replacements of the emergency supplies by collecting a one-time contribution of \$15 from all students new to Walton. The water supplies have been switched to bottled still water, which we can regularly rotate through and serve at hot lunches, while the newly bought water goes into the emergency shed, so as to avoid unnecessary cost. The water supplies were brought up into the school building during summer break to stay cooler and have been completely exchanged. The emergency food bars will be replaced and stocked up in the fall of 2014 from our funds money.

Concerns about students going hungry and arriving at our school without having eaten any breakfast have moved the parents to supply an emergency stash of snacks in the PAC kitchen, which teachers can use to hand out to hungry students. We have also been supporting the newly formed **Breakfast Club**, providing free breakfast to some children in need of the community's support under the leadership of teacher Mrs Rae, and bought dishes, cutlery and milk. Most of the food the club serves is donated to us by the local Price Smart supermarket - thank you.

We have been trying to alert our neighbours to keeping an eye on the school building after hours to keep **vandalism** to a minimum.

The PAC has enquired into the **safety of internet wireless connection** inside the building and will try to promote more computers to be hardwired into the net instead of operating by wireless transmitters, so as to keep radiation to a minimum.

The parents continue to promote **traffic safety** on the way to and from school by setting up teams of volunteer traffic monitors during the hours of drop-off and pick-up. This year, the parent volunteers' efforts were helped out by two teams of grade five students, who trained as junior traffic patrollers with the BCAA road safety program to guard the crosswalk on Walton Avenue. The program, which had not been realized at Walton for quite a while, will continue next year. A dozen of grade four students have signed up and are being trained. We would like to extend thanks to the Baker family for donating 12 high visibility vests to the school, for the use of traffic volunteers and staff recess monitors. Detailed info on established traffic safety rules at Walton can be viewed in several languages on our PAC website.

The Health and Safety Coordinators brought in experts from the Saleema Noon team in May to hold **workshops for pre-teen girls and boys**, promoting a healthy self-image and resistance to bullying and abuse.

### **After School Programs**

Our After School Program Coordinators Connie Reed and Nicola Ho have again done a great job to organize and make available three rounds of after school educational and athletic opportunities this year. There was a fall session, a winter and a spring session, with a variety of artistic, athletic and learning classes offered. The program continues to be very popular. We profited from the website to make registration and information much easier and largely paperless.

The after school programs are intended to be an additional educational and inspirational chance for all students, and we run them mostly at cost; making a slight profit where instructors donate back to the PAC. The money made this way is made available for bursaries, to give all interested students a chance of participation, regardless of their families' finances.

Look forward to a new fall program, with registration for some of the classes starting in summer – we will keep parents informed via e-mail.

### **Financial Summary**

Detailed information on all of the PAC's finances, income and expenses may be taken from our Treasurer's reports that are sent out with the minutes of the general meetings to all PAC members. E-mail the PAC Secretary for a copy if you are a member and did not receive the June report.

To sum up our main financial activities: We began the year with a healthy bolster of over 14.5 grand in our general account (consisting of our own raised funds) and received a grant of \$ 8,840 from the government's Gaming Grants (which are

restricted as to what they may be spent on and have to be kept in a separate account). Our **main fundraisers** over the year were:

the Entertainment coupon book sales (just over \$ 4,000)

the eleven Hot Lunches we served (just over \$ 7,500)

the Sip N Savour event, where we made just over \$ 9,000, parts of which funds are based on raffle profits and have to be kept in the Gaming account.

We raised further funds with movie nights, concession, a bake sale at Christmas, the Art Cards fundraiser, two coffee sales, gift card sales and the iGuy and iGirl workshop. We get a percentage of Lunch Lady orders paid back to the PAC. There were donations made to the PAC - thank you, friends of our organization.

Our **main expenses** were the following:

Just over \$ 4,000 as our annual contribution to partly reimburse our teachers for those teaching materials they pay for out of their own pockets (the staff hand in their receipts to the school office, where the reimbursements are handled).

Performances coming to school and opening week expenses: just over \$ 1,000

Paying for transportation costs for field trips of our students (the bills are only partially in, exact sum pending, but around \$ 3,000)

Contributing to the school's purchase of iPads for the use of the primary grade students: \$ 8,000

Smaller amounts went to bursaries, pot luck and food supplies, Christmas hampers for some less fortunate Walton families, buying more athletic vests for the use of our sports teams on away games and at sports meets, Sunshine funds (gifts and greeting cards for community members), the grade five field day at Timberline Ranch, supporting the Running Club and other expenses connected to PAC activities.

**Next year** we expect a year of financial straits with the school district still in the red numbers and have roundly \$ 30,000 available to start out with. Our restricted funds will largely have been used up for field trips, sports equipment and performances – the gaming grant monies need to be spent within 36 months. We hope to get another grant in the fall (usually \$20 per student enrolled the previous year) and have made our application. The teachers' job action has made it impossible to discuss the use of the funds raised at Sip N Savour, which will very likely go towards purchasing more computers for the school - we have 15 laptops on two movable carts right now and would like fixed workstations back in a computer lab - this may have to be postponed until construction of two additional classrooms can be

finished during the next school year, because we lack space. Budget planning for the coming school year will be worked on by an executive committee during the summer break, and will provide a draft on which the new executive can base their operations - details will have to be changed and adapted as life happens and turns out different from what we thought...

The PAC would like to thank our trusted Treasurer Rod Comrie for his work over three years in this position – he was just perfect!

### **Playground Renovation Project On Hold**

We have great hopes of being able to put in new equipment to replace the ageing climbing structure. We have received a grant from the city of Coquitlam Spirit grants towards this project, over the amount of \$ 20,000 and still hope we shall be able to bring off the project so we do not have to forfeit the city money. Right now we don't know if we can go ahead and may have to resort to finding private sponsors in September. We will keep you posted and hope for your support.

### **Your New PAC Next Year**

This PAC will continue to be a strong, involved and dedicated group working towards all of our children's excellency in education at Walton. We have quite a large number of long-time office holders step down as the year closes, but have filled all PAC positions for 2014/15 - with the exception of Traffic Safety Coordinator, which position is still available and could be yours! We are once again fielding a strong team. Your new PAC executive consists of:

Presidents (co-chaired)	Craig Woods and Megan Risk
Treasurers (co-chaired)	Diana and Rob Law
Secretary	Lesley Russell
Fundraising Coordinators (co-chaired)	Yvonne Chow and Leah Hamer
DPAC Representative, Parent Education	Anna Teglassi
Health and Safety Coordinators (co-ch.)	Monica and Rene Norena
Hot Lunch Committee Chair	Connie Wong
Newsletter Editor	Erin Ruggeri
Social Coordinator	Melissa Fong
Classroom Liaison Coordinator	Bryna Yao
Website Manager	Margaret Bickerton
After School Programs Coordinators	Connie Reed and Nicola Ho
Multicultural Liaison	Simon Chen
Sunshine Committee Chair	Justina Marks
School Planning Council members	Craig Woods, Anna Richter and Ingrid Doerksen

Traffic Safety Coordinator	vacant
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### **Multiculturalism at Walton**

Recognizing the diversity we have at the school and recognizing that our PAC exec and activities have not always accurately reflected that diversity, we put in to action efforts to better engage and include the diverse parent groups represented here at Walton.

The initiative we launched was to create the role of Multicultural liaison coordinator that would:

- Work with Multicultural Liaisons – parent designates from the Korean, Persian and Chinese communities.
- Coordinate active inclusion of the strong parent presence from the Korean, Persian and Chinese communities
- Translate materials in to Chinese, Persian and Korean

Multiculturalism highlights from the year included providing a new parent welcome evening in various languages, a luncheon led by the Korean parents, and the development of a multicultural liaison section of our PAC website.

### **DPAC**

With large cuts to the DPAC budget, there was not the usual amount of DPAC led parent education events this year. The DPAC did however continue with collaborative measures with the District Leadership Team to assure education in the district remained student centred. This was most evident during the budget process where the DPAC pushed for Education Assistant and Psychologist services be retained in order to offset the classroom issues foreseen with the drastic cuts required. DPAC also pushed for co-advocacy, sending a united message from all partner presidents to the government that a change to their funding model was required.

Walton had strong representation at the DPAC this year with our PAC Co-President, Craig Woods, being elected interim DPAC President when Past President, Heidi Gable, stepped down. A Walton presence will remain as Craig will stay on the DPAC as Vice President and our DPAC rep, Anna Teglassi, has become a DPAC Member at Large.

## **Closing Message**

We would like to thank those office holders who are stepping down as June ends and a new school year starts, for their hard work and continued support of the PAC over the years of their leadership. The leaving “old hands” are Anna Richter (Secretary for three years and Newsletter Editor for several), expert fundraisers Gail Harrop and Melanie Lee (the Sunshine Lady, as well), stalwart financial expert and long time Treasurer Rod Comrie, Newsletter Editor Serene Ho, Health and Safety Coordinators Joanna Kovats and Mazda Zamani, and hostess par excellence and baker of dream cakes Ingrid Doerksen (Social Coordinator for three years running). Some parents continue in their old or different offices, and we are happy to have found strong supporters among the incoming kindergarten parents. One of us, Craig, will carry on the presidential torch next year, while Stefanie will take a bow and step down after three years of chairwomanship - a huge thank you to Stefanie for her phenomenal quantity, and quality, of work, care and overall difference making she has provided to all in the Walton community.