



NCI Parent Council Monthly CAREing Chronicle

Be Informed...Be Involved!

Every parent is a member of the Parent Advisory Council

by **NCI PAC** on October 7, 2018

Experience the Adventure!

October brings with it cooler temps and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is a forum where we officially welcome our executive to their roles, approve our constitution and budget, and begin our regular reporting requirements for the year. Thank you to those who attended!



Fundraising experiences and volunteer adventures are on the horizon for NCI Parent Council! We look forward to seeing you at our first Bingo fundraiser with a Halloween theme! We are so excited to provide a fun-filled evening for our community members and appreciate your support and encouragement in making it a success! Thank you to our sponsors and committee members, the “magic” truly comes together with many hands passionate on many fronts for an event like this. PAC is truly grateful to those parents who can give even a small portion of their time to help us bring the details together. Whether you are interested in decorating, or helping put up posters, or can give time to help with set up or take down, work at the canteen or admissions, or even fill a lifelong dream as a bingo announcer....we have a spot for you! Parent Council is joining forces with teacher advisors and students and we look forward to having StuCo join us in our first collaborative fundraising event! Come out and support NCI and have a “ghoul-ish’ night!

- Tanya Pomaranski, PAC Chair

DID YOU KNOW?

No School Dances?



It is true...Hanover School Division does have a policy that restricts the school from holding, or renting out the gymnasium to a community group for the purpose of, a school dance. Let's be clear though, the school division is not against dancing or the instruction of it. Administrative staff from many schools have shared their concerns of organizing and supervising evening school dances to the point that 6 years ago a policy was made. To change this policy, in order to allow the Parent Council to coordinate an evening dance in the school gymnasium, please contact your local School Trustee. If you are thinking outside the box...yes, any community group (such as PAC) can hold a youth event such as a dance-a-thon, karaoke night or lip sync night involving dancing and music at a recreation centre or public venue but it is separate from HSD and NCI. For information on facility rentals visit the school website: <https://nci.hsd.ca/about/facility-booking/>. Stay tuned for upcoming PAC youth events in Niverville!

Safe Crossing @ Railway for New High School - Part 1

The railroad tracks located at 311 near Arena Road have been a source of contention for parents whose children will be attending the newly located high school on the west side of town. The worry is valid, as presently there isn't a consistent safe route on the south or north sides that traverse the tracks; in their present state, students will have to walk over the tracks and cross two lanes of the 311 highway before coming to Arena Road, which remains unpaved gravel.



While it's recognized that students in high school years are more adept in their understanding and practice of road safety, it would be naïve to suggest that vehicles crossing the tracks at peak times -- in the winter no less -- wouldn't have an impact on student safety. This is a complex issue that involves multiple players. The Manitoba Government, the Hanover School Division, the Town of Niverville and CP Rail have had multiple discussions on this issue, yet there appears to be stagnation in procuring a long term plan.

At the June 4, 2018 PAC meeting, Randy Dueck, Superintendent of HSD, noted that there weren't any plans in the works that HSD was privy to, but that the Town of Niverville had a year to come up with one. CP Rail further indicated that they will not assume financial responsibility for proposed changes to the tracks. It appears that the onus is on the Town to establish a cost-effective and more permanent solution in addressing the condition and enhancement of the railroad tracks for safety purposes. As reported in The Citizen on August 1, 2017, there were three options the Town was exploring: an overhead bridge (which, according to Mayor Dyck, is least desired by rail companies), an underpass (tunnel underneath the tracks which came at the hefty price tag of \$400,000), and a surface crossing with arms and lights (although, what that would look like remains to be seen). It was also noted at the June 4, 2018 PAC meeting that Mayor Dyck, and MLA Bob Lagassé, were in preliminary discussions with CP Rail about having designated officials provide railroad education to students, a proactive measure to raise safety awareness for those frequenting the area and crossing the tracks.

Students have also acted and have written the Town of Niverville with HSD consent and in partnership with PAC, to inquire about the plans for student commuters faced with crossing the tracks daily. Parents are demanding swift action and a response with regards to a cohesive plan to put their worries to rest as we inch closer to the opening of the new high school.

Mid-September another meeting was held between the HSD School Superintendent and the Mayor. They drafted a joint letter to CP Rail asking for further safety measures to be installed at our Main Street crossing. The Mayor also contacted the VP of rail safety. It is in the interest of both the Council and the School Division to see enhanced safety at this very important crossing. Stay tuned for updates and contact the Town of Niverville directly to request an expedient process in producing a sound plan that greatly reduces risk to student travellers and working commuters.

What is StuCo?

<https://nci.hsd.ca/students/student-council-news/>

The Student Council “StuCo” is made of one rep per classroom from grades 5-8 and a handful of volunteer grade reps from grades 9-12. The executive positions are voted upon by the student council body. The Council meets every Monday during lunch hour. The Teacher Champions are Mrs. Happychuk and Ms. Cadieux. This year’s Co-Presidents are Nathan Rempel and Keziah Hoepfner. On October 1st PAC member Edna Friesen-Wiebe attended one of the council’s weekly meetings to connect and promote a partnership between the student and parent groups.



Initiatives done by the Student Council include:

- Pizza Days - Christmas Hampers
- Talent Show - Grade Wars
- Spirit Week - Bake Sales
- Holiday Activities
- Partner with SWAG for donations to Siloam Mission
- Terry Fox fundraising
- February Crush Gram fundraiser



New High School Build Update



Opening September 2019, “Niverville High School” will serve 450 Grade 9-12 students and have expansion capacity for up to 550 students. The facility will include regular classrooms, science labs, art room, and other specialized spaces such as a learning commons, digital learning labs, life-skills suite, and resource areas. Building plans also include a multi-purpose room, performing arts space (music and drama), fitness room, and large gymnasium. The campus will also feature a community managed integrated child-care centre that will provide up to 74 spaces. The current school off 5th Avenue will be grades 5-8 and has been named “Niverville Middle School.”

Parent Council members extend well wishes and a speedy recovery to the crew member involved in the accident at the new high school building site. Continued safety is as important as maintaining a schedule and we thank the working crew and emergency team members for acting quickly and professionally.

Want the most up-to-date information on the build? New School Webpage – <https://niverville.hsd.ca>



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

DOORS OPEN @ 6:00 P.M.

7:00-9:00 - 10 GAMES!

NCI GYMNASIUM

Cash & Prizes

Wear a costume for a chance
to win the Door Prize!



Only 350 seats!

3 cards = \$3.00

6 cards = \$5.00

9 cards = \$7.00

15 cards = \$10.00



Canteen on site! (cash only)

Please note: This event is licenced by Manitoba Lotteries #LGCA-7459-BI-29626
and is for Manitoba residents only.



NEXT PAC MEETING: NOVEMBER 5TH

AT 6PM IN THE NCI LIBRARY



Planning For Graduation

FAQ at the Grad/Parent Meeting held September 20th

Q: Who is on the main parent committee and how did they know to join?

A: Mr. Koester approached Alana Dunn as a parent with previous grad experience. Dawn Schmidt, Nancy Braun and Karen Fast were then invited to join the main committee. Sub-committees were filled by interested parents after the parent meeting. They include: ticket sales, decorating & entertainment, after party, apparel and photos. These committees meet at their own time and will communicate with the parent body through emails. No follow-up meeting will be held.

Q: What is the \$150 Grad Fee for? What if there is excess?

A: It goes toward the venue for safe grad, decorations, grad photo sitting fee and incidentals. In previous years if there was excess, the committee has paid it forward with a gift back to the students in the form of a bursary or school equipment (ie. drink machine, shrubs, gift to the drama club, concrete benches/planters).

Q: Who is in charge of the ceremony and supper?

A: HSD and NCI Admin arranges for the venue and details surrounding the convocation ceremony, awards and meal afterwards. Many staff are involved that evening including the speeches and awards.

Q: Does the ceremony and supper have to be in the same location as last year, despite feedback from parents that it was not large enough?

A: This year's grad class is smaller, with only 56 graduates. The school has researched the venues nearby, with a priority of supporting local businesses and keeping travel down for parents and guests, and has booked the Fourth Avenue Bible Church again for the ceremony and the Heritage Centre Ballroom for the awards and dinner. The church has a stage that is favorable for the set up that staff prefer.

Q: Do we have to have a Safe Grad Social/Party?

A: No, but it is encouraged. It is a safe, supported program that includes guidelines for security and alcohol sales. The "after party" is different from a Safe Grad Social (usually goes until 2am) and is held at a family's rural home from 2am-7am. Both parties are only possible with chaperones and parent volunteers. The grads took part in a retreat on Sept. 24th to discuss their wishes for their big day.

Q: What procedures are in place to accommodate all guests?

A: Each grad receives reserved 'tickets' for seating at the ceremony, other friends and family will be possibly seated downstairs to watch on a large screen. Each grad may invite 3 people to dinner; tickets are subsidized by HSD but each ticket is paid for by the grad families. Additional requests for out of town guests can be made through the office.

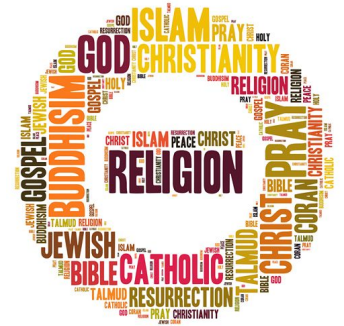
Please refer to the Parent/Student Guidebook for Gradation for this year:

<https://nci.hsd.ca/parents/graduation-info/>

Religious Exercises and Instruction

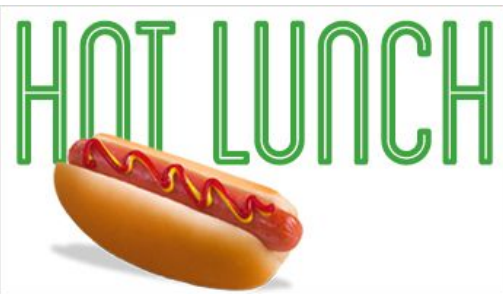
<https://nci.hsd.ca/parents/religious-exercises-and-instruction/>

The Public Schools Act states that public schools shall be non-sectarian. Religious exercises may only be conducted where a petition asking for such exercises is presented to the school board. *Legislative Reference – [The Public Schools Act](#), Section 84(1), (8) [Manitoba Regulation 554/88](#), Sections 1, 3, 4(2), 4(3)* Each year a petition must be signed and presented to the HSD Board, by April 30th, from any religion showing at least 60 parental signatures of students. No divisional personnel is involved in the gathering of signatures or presenting of petitions to the board. Grandparents and homeschooling families cannot sign the petition. Come September, each family must express interest in the opt-in nature to early morning religion exercises and the weekly religious instruction class held during the school day. No staff shall follow up with families who have not yet expressed interest, by requesting by letter/email that their child attend either/both options. The instruction is done by community volunteers and it is up to the parents and local churches to coordinate the instructors for each option. Children opting out of either religious instruction continue to be under the supervision of their classroom teacher with curriculum based lessons continuing during that time.



See media coverage of this topic:

<https://steinbachonline.com/local/petition-deadline-moved-to-allow-religious-exercises>



Tuesdays: Son City Gr. 7-12 \$4
Thursdays: Pizza Day Gr. 5-12 \$2/slice

Please visit the parent portal to sign the walking permission form. All students sign out at the office when coming/going over noon hour. Son City lunch menus are posted in the main lobby on the green communication board and on the school website by clicking on this logo.

What is the Parent Portal? FAQ...

<https://powerschool.hsd.ca/public/> or
<https://hsd.ca/schools/parent-portal/>

No, it is not a video game developed by Valve Corporation...or a gateway to another world! PowerSchool is the student information system that HSD uses to manage information such as grades, attendance, demographics, courses, fees, strong connections date, permission forms, etc.

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Can I access the Parent Portal from anywhere?

Yes. You can access the Parent Portal from any computer with an Internet connection. The Parent Portal is also viewable on mobile devices.

Why does the PowerSchool App not have all the features that are included in the HSD Parent Portal website?

The PowerSchool Parent Portal App currently available in Apple / Google Play stores has limited functionality, and does not allow for feature customization. To ensure the best possible user experience, we strongly recommend that mobile users access the HSD Parent Portal through the login on this web page and **avoid using the PowerSchool managed App.**

I forgot my login information. How can I retrieve my username/password?

If you forget your login information, click the Forgot Username / Password link on the login page at <https://powerschool.hsd.ca> and walk through the recovery steps as described.

Will school staff provide me with my login information over the phone?

No. For security reasons, your login information will not be provided over the phone. This must be done in person or via the online login / password recovery process.

Can I view my child's assignments and course level grading?

No. Only report cards and Grad/Credit summaries are accessible through the Parent Portal.

I have children in more than one HSD school. Can I access their information from within my one Parent Access Account?

Yes. You may add multiple student Access ID's to a single account. To add another student to an existing Parent Access account, simply login and go to *Account Preferences*. Then select the *Student* tab at the top of the web page, and click the *Add* button.

Can other people view my children's information?

No. As long as you protect your password, others will not be able to see your child's information. To protect/monitor against unauthorized access, the system will also display a log of registered users who have access to your child's information.

Stay in Touch!



Bookmark the school website! <https://nci.hsd.ca/>
School Email - nci@hsd.ca PAC Email - nciparentcouncil@gmail.com





NOW THAT YOU READ THE NEWSLETTER...CONTEST TIME!!
 THE FIRST PERSON TO EMAIL PAC (NCIPARENTCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM)
 WITH THE NAME OF THE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER FOR THE
 VIDEO GAME "PORTAL" (HINT: READ ABOUT THE PARENT PORTAL)
 WILL
WIN ONE FREE CUP OF COFFEE FROM BISTRO 290!



Programs and initiatives don't 'magically' appear or happen...it takes a lot of planning and effort to make big wishes come true! PAC is the "magic" in the complimentary partnership between home & school!

Calendar of PAC Events

(updated as needs confirmed)

| Event | Date | Volunteer Details |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Bingo | Sat. October 27 6:00 p.m. | 20 volunteers (setup, cards/cash, canteen) |
| Parent Teacher Night | November 15 4:30 p.m. | 4 volunteers for the kiosk |
| Staff Appreciation | November | Snacks during the week |
| Student Social Event | February TBA | 10-20 volunteers |
| Celebration of Learning | March 20 4:00-6:00p.m. | 4 volunteers for the kiosk |
| Bingo! | March TBA | 10-20 volunteers (canteen, setup) |
| May Band Concerts | Gr.5 - May 8 7:00 p.m. Gr.6 - May 9 7:00 p.m. Gr.9-12 - May 23 7:00 p.m. | 4 volunteers for the kiosk each night |
| Sr. Year Drama Production | May 29-31 | 4 volunteers for the kiosk |
| June Concert | Gr. 7 & 8 - June 3 7:00 p.m. | |
| Gr. 4 Parent Welcome Night | June TBA | 4 volunteers for the kiosk |
| Staff Appreciation | June | 4 volunteers |
| Tri-School Track and Field | June 6 | 6 volunteers (2 shifts; 9am-12, 12pm-3) |

VISIT OUR PARENT COUNCIL WEBPAGE AT <https://nci.hsd.ca/parents/pac/>