



NCI Parent Council Monthly

CAREing Chronicle

Be Informed...Be Involved!

Every parent is a member of the Parent Advisory Council

by NCI PAC on November 7, 2018



Message from President: This month, I was challenged by our communication team to be reflective, inspiring, and encouraging. First of all, I love a good challenge, so even though I would rather hibernate on another cold fall evening, I pulled myself to the computer. Second, I am a firm believer of “everything happens for a reason”. And while I was feeling anything but inspiring or encouraging staring at that blank screen, I turned to hunt through our office desk for a distraction, and fate provided

me with three simple words on three tiny pins. An all encompassing message staring at me; the answer to my challenge.

Thankful - While it sounds cliché, I am truly thankful for the opportunity to work with a wonderful team of parents in our community. Those who come to the table every month, or check their inbox on a daily basis all in the name of giving. Bringing with them, their creativity, their friends, questions, suggestions, passions, and dedication in amongst their already busy lives. I am thankful for their conversation and ideas, their time, passion, and commitment.

Proud - I am so very proud of the work we do as a collective team. Proud of those parents who step out of their comfort zone to help with events. Proud to learn that our teachers are excited about Parent Council's plans. Proud to hear that the neighbors are talking about “what's going on at the school”. Proud to see two parent friends volunteer for a shift *and then take in the experience!* Proud to see the smile and excitement in the face of success....and proud to talk to that one parent at our kiosk who is ‘thinking about joining us in some small way’ because they see (and have heard) about the good things we are doing.

Hopeful - I am hopeful, each time I check the inbox and see a new message. Hopeful to see a new face (or a returning one) each monthly meeting. Hopeful to hear of a parent interested in helping at a single event. Hopeful that the parent who once saw us as a group who ‘just wants me to sign up and volunteer all my time to do a bunch of fundraising’, is starting to see us as a connection, as a place where even an hour of time or a plate of food is contribution, and as a fun group to spend time with for a good cause....our kids! Hopeful to know parents are reaching out to contribute in some small way, meeting others with the same goals, and building a partnership in their children's school community. Hopeful that we are well on our way in meeting our fundraising goal.

Stay warm, inspired and encouraged by each other. Talk with each other; stay informed and reach out for that cup of coffee in the pages that follow! - Tanya Pomaranski, NCI PAC Chair

PAC's 1st Bingo!



On Saturday, October 27, 2018 NCI Parent Council held their first licenced BINGO FUNdraising Experience. We were proud to see 130 people in attendance and they bought out our canteen!

We heard laughter as Bingo Caller Leslie Bardal taught us the rhyming chants to the numbers being called - N 46 "Up to tricks!"

and I 17 "Dancing Queen!" She also felt the tension in the room when 51 numbers had been called towards the Blackout Grand Prize and she shared all about what a "sweat" is - waiting on just one number before calling "Bingo!" There were serious game players who did not appreciate the chatter but the kids present really got involved and enjoyed it all!



Family and friends came for a chance to win not only \$20 cash prizes but also products donated by many local businesses. We did our first Facebook Live video post and enjoyed seeing winners post on social media about the fun and luck they had!

The Parent Council raised \$800 in 2 hours! We are very happy to share that we will be supporting the Rain Garden Project and new recess equipment at NCI - stay tuned for a full story in the new year.



Grand prize winner for full blackout, Chad Johnston. Door prize winner for wearing a costume, Lisa Lenski. Congratulations!



We would like to thank our team of volunteers, local sponsors and supporters for the bingo evening:

Canteen: Stainless Concepts and Sean Dieno The Insulator

Prizes by: RBC Steinbach, GORP, Norwex (Tanya Pomaranski), Ruff Mutts, Steeped Tea (Heather Miller),

Hawksley Design (Noelle Strain), Average Joe's Fitness, Done Salon, HSD and NCI.

Burning question - when is the next Bingo? Mark your calendars for March 9th!

New School Update



Mrs. Kimberley Funk has been named the first Principal of Niverville High School. Mrs. Funk has been the Vice Principal of Landmark Collegiate since 2013, and will transition into her new role beginning February 2019. Mr. Koester will remain the principal of Niverville Middle School.



has

The NCI PAC wishes both admin teams the very best as they embark upon two new schools for our town. New School Webpage – <https://niverville.hsd.ca>



NEXT PAC MEETING: DECEMBER 3

AT 6PM IN THE NCI LIBRARY

Staff Appreciation

November 15th is Teacher & Staff Appreciation Day at NCI and we are gearing up to **SPOIL** our teachers and support staff! We are looking for volunteers who are willing to make, bake or buy food to feed the 70 amazing staff at NCI. Grades 5-8 have been emailed detailed requests but if you are interested in helping out too, please email Krista at klcs@mymts.net by Monday, November 12th. Thank you!



Grade 5 Parent Reminder

Thank you to the 17 parents who have replied to the PAC “Gr.4 Orientation” survey sent by email on September 29th. If you have not filled it out online, please do so by November 30th. Your feedback and input is greatly appreciated!

Sports Club

Free to join - Gr.5 &6. Boys (Thurs.) and girls (Wed.) each have their own sports club day. After school to 5pm. Sports Club sports are based on what students are learning in gym.

Sept- end of Oct: Volleyball, Oct- Dec: Floor hockey/ indoor soccer, Jan-mid Feb: Basketball

Feb-Mar: Badminton, Apr- mid May: Running club.

<https://nci.hsd.ca/athletics/>

Drama Anyone?

We wanted to know more about Drama at NCI. We spoke with Mrs. Deanna Wiebe:

Q: What does Drama look like at NCI?

A: The Grade 5 & 6 have a Spring Tea event. The Grade 7 & 8's do a Christmas play/musical. The Grade 9-12 do a full-length drama at the end of May.



Q: Biggest challenge to Drama?

A: Sharing space in the gym is a huge challenge. End of May is not a great time for drama productions but we have to wait until then due to all the sports teams that practice. The new high school will have rehearsal space but not a stage. We will need to continue to be flexible and creative.

Q: How do students get involved?

A: Kids come out and sign up on the days it is on the morning announcements. From the list of interested kids, a play is chosen that will accommodate that many actors. Auditions are held and roles assigned. In the fall we rehearse every noon hour for two months with a couple of after school run-throughs thrown in. In the spring we start noon hour rehearsals in mid-February until the end of May. It's a big commitment, but worth it.

Q: What does a production cost?

A: There are no fees for the kids to join and the program is well supported by admin. Most plays have associated costs of around \$1000 (depends if we have big royalties to pay). We don't usually recoup the money through ticket sales so drama tends to be in the red most years.

Q: Who volunteers to make it happen?

A: Mrs. Wiebe herself oversees Drama at NCI with support from Judith Hinton and Jennifer Horne. There are no parent volunteers. Mr. Clark helps build sets (with his Art students). If we offer desserts on the performance evenings then Ms. Cadieux rounds up kids to help serve that. Mrs. Wiebe does the directing, staging, sound & lights, advertising, costumes and props....It's a big job, but fun! Every year there are students who enjoy the technical side of things and they run the soundboard and the lights which is a big help!

Q: Does Drama have a wish list?

A: This year Mr. Koester purchased 11 headset microphones for Drama. We are very excited to use those and happy that we will have them for the years ahead. Volunteers for this year's productions would always be handy! We also hope that middle years teachers will continue with the creative tradition and offer Drama next year at Niverville Middle School!

Parent Portal – Can You Log In? Add a Student?



By now you should have set up your password...having trouble? Call the school office!

ADDING A STUDENT TO AN EXISTING PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNT

If you already have an HSD Parent Portal Account, you can simply add a student to your account.

1. Login to your Parent Portal account and click the ADD A STUDENT option on the home page or click the ACCOUNT PREFERENCES icon and select the STUDENTS tab.

2. Click the ADD button.

3. Enter your student's name (try first name only).

4. Enter the Access ID that was provided to you by your school for that student (note that this is CASE SENSITIVE). Each child has their own Access ID.

5. Enter the Access Password. The password is the student's date of birth in this format: m/d/yyyy

Examples:

April 7, 2012 enter 4/7/2012

December 17, 2012 enter 12/17/2012

6. Enter your relationship to the student.

7. Click OK.

8. If successful, you will see the additional student name in the header bar. Select the student name to view their information.

HSD Parent Portal – <https://powerschool.hsd.ca/public/>

I am unable to connect to the Parent Portal. How do I troubleshoot?

- First, check to ensure that your Internet service is working properly.
- Next, validate that you are using the correct ID, password and URL: <https://powerschool.hsd.ca/>
- If you are still unable to connect, please contact the school.

Outdoor Learning Anyone?



A- Active
L- Learning
A- and
G- Green
S- Space



We interviewed volunteer/parent Lyndsay Eidse to find out more about this new PAC committee:

Q: How did this committee come to be?

A: I have a passion for all things 'new' to come for our middle years group as well as excitement for our high school students to bring community, friendship, fellowship, and connection between students at school. Recess is a big topic for me, as I cannot express enough the importance for kids, especially in today's generation, to participate in recess. I joined parent council with the interest in active living and green space development at the middle years school. With the current school hosting Grades 5-12, there is a need for enhancement or school yard to encourage creativity and activity.

Q: What are the goals of this committee?

A: I am excited to meet with teachers and hear messages from parents what they would like to see implemented in the green space outside at the current school as well as the new school. With these dreams and hopes, there comes the need for fundraising as well to make these goals happen. We need to develop long term and short term goals as well. With the school split happening in 2019, it is uncertain what areas of the school yard are available to us for development of climbing and play structures. So we are looking at short term right now and that is building a **recess shed** that would be available to Grades 5 and 6 to use during recess. This shed would hold game equipment and other recreational activities that kids can enjoy during all the 3 seasons of the school year. We are also working in collaboration with some staff for the development of a rain garden.

Want to know more about this committee? Come to a PAC meeting!

Are your kids bored at recess? Let their teachers know that!

Are you interested in what might come of the playground when NCI becomes Niverville Middle School? Come talk to us!

Stay tuned in future issues for more information on these projects and how you can get involved. Each of our ventures will need sponsors, donors, volunteers and support!



What is a School Trustee?

The principal function of a school trustee is to shape and implement policy that can be effectively carried out by the Division's teachers, support staff, etc. as part of students' public education package. School Trustee elections



are held every four years in tandem with municipal elections. The election was held October 24, 2018 and saw four candidates vying for two of the Ward 1 trustee positions available (Ward 1 consists of Niverville, Bothwell, Kleefeld and Crystal Springs). Voter turnout was 23.4% with 2024 votes cast in total for candidates. The number of votes cast dropped from the previous municipal election in 2014 (3019), perhaps due in part to the Town of Niverville's Mayor and Councillors being elected by acclamation (unchallenged for their seats).

Shannon Friesen was, decidedly, re-elected and led with 44.1% of the vote. Carisa Klassen was newly elected and brought in 33.4%. Mary Yoder tallied 15.8%, while Jennifer Lavin finished with 6.7%. Each candidate, while unique in their own right, spoke to their values and beliefs and how they would serve the students and their communities. Please join the PAC in wishing Shannon Friesen and Carisa Klassen a successful term, and congratulating the other candidates on their thoughtful campaigns. Our sincere thanks to Ruby Wiens who served for 12 years and did not seek reelection this year.



The inaugural meeting of the new Board of Trustees will occur on November 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm. If you wish to speak directly to your School Trustee, their contact information can be obtained through the HSD website under the Governance Tab.

Cold Weather Recess

Morning Arrival & Outdoor Recess Guidelines

Dress for the weather...this is Manitoba...get the kids to put on a few layers! Outdoor recess information for grade 5 & 6 students will be communicated by email/PA announcements to both students & teachers in a timely fashion. Student well-being is paramount at all times. All is good up until and including -24 with wind chill. -25 to -29 with wind chill -- all students are inside when they come to school as the Environment Canada website indicates a possible risk of frostbite for prolonged exposure. Partial outside recess for grades 5 and 6 may be considered throughout the day. -30 with wind chill and colder -- all students are inside when they come to school and there will be indoor recess for grade 5 & 6 students.

Bright Arrow Phone System



Bright Arrow is the telecommunications delivery system employed by NCI to effectively communicate school-wide events, or emergent notices quickly and on a broad scale. These authorized notices may include pertinent information related to inclement weather (school closures), transportation delays, follow-up attendance calls (unless a parent has already informed the school of their child's absence), and other urgent school-related matters. Calls through Bright Arrow are sent directly to your primary number that NCI has on file. Parents are reminded to follow the prompts of the phone call or visit the HSD or NCI websites for updates.



Stay in Touch!

School Email - nci@hsd.ca

PAC Email - nciparentcouncil@gmail.com

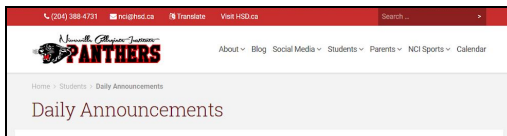
Bookmark the school website! <https://nci.hsd.ca/>

Join and add us now! @NCIHanover

Tag us and follow #NCICARES



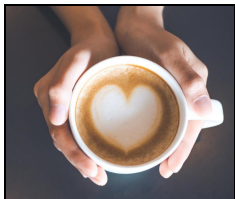
Have You Checked the Daily Announcements?



Do you have it bookmarked? Does your child log on in the morning before they leave for school?

Want more information about something that is posted on the announcements? Ask your kids! Email their teacher!

<https://nci.hsd.ca/students/daily-announcements/>



NOW THAT YOU READ THE NEWSLETTER...CONTEST TIME!!
THE FIRST PERSON TO EMAIL PAC (NCIPARENTCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM)
WITH THE DEFINITION OF A "SWEAT" (HINT: BINGO!) WILL
WIN ONE FREE CUP OF COFFEE FROM BISTRO 290!

Last month's winner: Jenn Hyde!



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! Please consider coming to our monthly meetings or inquiring about our volunteer experiences! Find us at a PAC kiosk at the next event!

Calendar of PAC Events

Event	Date	Volunteer Details
Parent Teacher Night	November 15 4:30 p.m.	4 volunteers for the kiosk - ½ hr shifts
Staff Appreciation	November 15	Snacks for the day
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 2019 - 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.	4 volunteers for the kiosk
Gr. 4 Parent Welcome Night	June TBA	4 volunteers for the kiosk
Staff Appreciation	June	TBD
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/>