

English Bluff Elementary PAC

2014/2015 Annual Report

Submitted by the PAC Co-Chairs on May 13, 2015

PAC Executive 2014/2015

Co-Chairs	Heidi Surman and Kristina MacLellan
Vice Chair	None
Treasurer	Selma Toews
Secretary & Newsletter	Carole Abercrombie
Past Chair	None
DPAC Rep	Carole Abercrombie
SPC Reps	Patty Villanueva Linda McDonald Christine Young

PAC Committees 2014/2015

Hot Lunch Coordinators	Christine Young Laura Foulkes
Emergency Prep	Mike Anderson
Spell-a-Thon	Christine Young
Christmas Fundraiser	Andrea Aird
Spring Carnival	Janet Archibald Nicole Bullen Amanda Conner
Book Club Picnic	Marnie Coates Carole Abercrombie Andrea Aird
Spirit Wear	Patty Villanueva
Shop Funds	Vickie McCarvill
Cut and Paste	Marnie Coates Leah Duhamel Gerry Adams

Co-Chair's Message

It has been a pleasure to serve on the English Bluff Elementary PAC for the past two years as Co-Chairs. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of highly motivated parent volunteers who have such a vested interest in their children's education. Heartfelt thanks goes out to the members of the PAC Executive, the fundraising committees, special event coordinators and the entire parent community for supporting us in all our endeavours this year. We have also been extremely fortunate to work with our Principal Michelle Smith and an extremely dedicated group of teachers and staff, who have all made this year easy another very successful one for our children.

Highlights of 2014/2015

Fundraising/Special Events

- Progressive Shop Funds was once again offered to the parent community as a low maintenance fundraiser throughout the fall term. Coordinator Vickie McCarvill reached a fundraising milestone at English Bluff with the money she raised in November and December. When her children started at EB she set herself a personal goal of raising \$20,000 for the school. With the money she helped raise through Shop Funds and the Thrifty's Smile Card program over the last few years, Vickie has reached that goal! (See Treasurer's annual report for total Shop Funds raised this year).
- Spirit Wear was offered this year, after taking a hiatus in 2013/14. Total raised was \$215.00, and that is more than we raised the past three years combined from 2010-2013! Thanks again to Patty Villanueva for organizing.
- The PAC decided to offer a new holiday fundraiser to replace the Christmas Basket Raffle. Andrea Aird conceptualized and organized a Christmas wreath decorating event. The PAC purchased live wreaths at cost and a wreath decorating day was held where all students from EB had a chance to personally decorate wreaths pre-purchased for \$25.00 each by their families. This fundraiser was a huge success, engaged the whole school in some holiday spirit, and raised \$1543.47. In addition, a 50/50 raffle was held at the Christmas concert and the winner donated their winnings back to the school, raising \$1180.00 for the PAC. The wreaths and 50/50 draw fundraisers doubled what the PAC raised at Christmas in 2013/14.
- The PAC's Hot Lunch program was ongoing throughout the year, occurring every second week. Hot lunch is now offered on Thursdays, instead of Fridays, in order to avoid Pro-D days and holidays. Estimated total that will be raised this year will be over \$5000.
- Thrifty's Smile Card program for technology was once again offered as a low maintenance fundraiser starting in January 2015 (see Treasurer's annual report for final totals). A review of the viability of this fundraiser will take place in June.
- The second annual EB Spell-a-Thon in March raised \$7,156.38! Last year \$4718.45 was raised, so this was a significant increase! The PAC purchased prizes for the top 10 earners and their names were entered into a draw to determine the order in which they chose their prize. All students who achieved 100% were given a Panago Pizza coupon and all students in K-3 were also awarded an incentive prize. Thank you again to Christine Young for organizing this highly successful educational fundraiser. Suggestions for next year included obtaining a big-ticket prize and putting the names of all students who achieve 100% into a draw for that, in order to emphasize the importance of spelling in addition to fundraising for the students.
- The PAC voted in January to establish a playground contingency fund, as parts of the EB playground will have to be replaced, refurbished or augmented in the next few years. As the cost of school playgrounds is high, the PAC made this a priority in order to raise enough money by the time this project begins. All proceeds from this year's Spell-a-Thon went to the Playground Contingency Fund.
- The EB PAC Spring Carnival will be held once again on Thursday May 28. The organizing committee has set a goal of reaching at least last year's total of \$8647.00!

Communication

- Six PAC meetings were held throughout the school year; child-minding services were provided at all evening meetings.
- Six newsletters were published throughout the school year keeping parents informed of activities, fundraisers and how their PAC dollars were being spent.
- The PAC was well represented at the first-day assembly with complimentary beverages/goodies and an information table outside the school to welcome the parent community back to EB.

Parent/Student Education

- The PAC brought Saleema Noon's iGirl and iGuy empowerment workshops to the school in February. There was both a parent education night and student workshops for grades 4-7. This program teaches kids how to make smart choices in tough situations and covers topics such as self-esteem, bullying, and peer pressure. This program was very well received by students and teachers and recommendations for future sessions included adding the social media and internet safety component next time we offer this program. The PAC is considering bringing back Saleema Noon's Body Science workshops for all grade levels for the 2015/16 school year.
- A core group of PAC parents, along with the PAC Co-chairs and Principal Michelle Smith, visited an International Baccalaureate (IB) elementary school in North Vancouver in the fall in order to better educate themselves about IB. An initiative to bring the IB program to English Bluff was started at the grassroots level by parents and the school. This initiative was taken to the school district and is now in the process of being approved by all stakeholders.
- The PAC decided to bring Dr. Deborah MacNamara to the school in the spring for her presentation: Raising Children in a Digital World. This event was postponed due to conflicts with the IB initiative, however she will be re-booked for fall 2015.

Community Giving/Social Responsibility

- In January the PAC voted to establish a Compassionate Fund as a line item in the budget, in order to have a contingency for emergency needs for EB families. This decision came about after a group of EB parents organized a hot chocolate and cookie day in early December to benefit an EB family whose son was undergoing cancer treatment. The parent community was very generous and raised \$661.00 for the family, with \$53.10 of that donated back to the PAC to start the compassionate fund. Special thanks to Laura Foulkes for suggesting and organizing this important initiative.
- The PAC helped organize a jacket and blanket drive during the holiday season on behalf of Covenant House in Vancouver for street-involved and homeless youths. Thank you to PAC parent Susy Khunkhun who brought forward this initiative and delivered the donations.

How your PAC dollars were spent

- Gaming grant money used for fieldtrips/bus fees to Grade 6 camp, the Vancouver Art Gallery, CTV Weather School, Britannia Mines, the UBC Beatty Biodiversity Museum, Queen's Park and the Grade 7 UBC trip which will take place June 3-5.
- Classroom funds/supplies for teachers - \$250 each for the year.
- The PAC contributed \$1200.00 towards the purchase of new volley ball nets and poles for the school, as the current equipment was considered dangerous and in immediate need of replacing.
- Student Enrichment (see Treasurer's report for total costs):
 - iGirl/iGuy empowerment workshop for grades 4-7 in February.
 - Yoga workshops for five weeks for all students in January/February. Recommendation to bring Yoga It Up back next year for the extended ten week version which would include psycho-social topics and meditation, as it was a huge success with the students.
 - Flying Bob educational performance for all students in the fall.
- The PAC helped pay for and organize the EB Welcome Back BBQ in October.
- The PAC paid for grade 6/7 first aid course which took place in November.
- The PAC will contribute money towards the grade seven graduation.
- The PAC will once again pay for and organize the Book Club picnic for all students who regularly attend the EB morning Book Club.
- The Staff Appreciation lunch will once again be organized and paid for by the PAC in June.