



SAC Presidents Report 2013 – 2014 Academic Year

This year saw a tremendous number of changes and improvements at GAG. Center stage and instrumented in many of these changes was Todd Bright, our new principal. Todd's enthusiasm, drive and commitment to making GAG an exceptional school were immediately apparent once you met him. His no nonsense attitude and high expectations for the entire school community has raised the bar for what is to be expected at GAG.

This year our SAC was comprised of numerous individuals with varying backgrounds. Each SAC member possessed a unique set of attributes and insights that resulted in an extremely functional and well rounded committee. With Mr. Bright's unwavering support and guidance the SAC and its subcommittees had an extremely productive year and tackled some very large projects and tough issues.

SAC members generally meet monthly and discuss topics involving school culture, safety and academic performance. The following is a brief summary of the major events the SAC was involved in this year. For more information please refer to the SAC monthly meeting minutes in the GAG website.

- Transformation of the school library into a learning commons that will meet the physical, social and technological needs of our children
- Continued push and support for sidewalks along South Pelham Street and the creation of bus lanes along the refurbished Port Robinson Road
- Push for greater communication between teachers, administration and parents via automated phone messages, facebook, texting, twitter
- Continued support of technology in the school by purchasing 10 LCD projectors' for classrooms
- Evaluation of the previous years EQAO results revealed some startling facts and trends. The teaching staff was directed to pull up their boot straps, reassess why our Grade 6 scores had not met expectations and address the reasons for the poor scores
- Support of the School Travel Planning Committee whose mandate is to promote safety at and around the school and while also promoting a safe envision for students to walk or ride to and from the school
- Bullying is a reality at every school and GAG is no exception. Nadine Wallace (Youth Justice Coordinator) gave an excellent presentation to the SAC regarding this pervasive problem. GAG was selected for a pilot project that educates staff, students and parents about bullying. One of the primary goals is to engage individuals to become involved in recognizing and dealing with bullying.
- SAC allocated \$600 to provide social networking safety seminars, including an empowering presentation from Paul Davis, for students in Grades 4 – 8 as well as individuals in the community

- Mr. Khan, Mr. L'Ecuyer and Mr. Haining outlined many “new” strategies employed by the teaching staff as well as the ever changing face of technology in the classroom
- YMCA daycare renovation – the daycare facility is moving from its current location into the school. This move has provided a great opportunity to increase the size of our learning commons and have the DSBN cover some of the additional costs
- GAG was selected as a pilot school for the introduction of an “on-line” payment and parental consent system. This system provides parents with a convenient payment option for school purchases, class trips and parental consent for school activities
- An outdoor classroom grant was awarded to GAG in the amount of \$6,500
- A very successful Fun Fair provided the GAG community one more reason to celebrate what a great school we have

While the SAC had a very busy and productive year, we had a lot of fun along the way. Many of the projects and issues that the SAC were involved with last year will continue to require care, attention and vigilance. I present an open invitation to any and all parents, to come out to our first SAC meeting next year for a “look and see”. If you like what you see we would love you to get involved. Remember, the education of our children starts with us.

Thanks, best regards and have a wonderful summer.

Jim Turpel
SAC Chair