

RED DEER LAKE SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the families of RDL School. To fill you in and advise you that, RDL School has a very active and involved Parent Council. Our Foundation name is Foothills Cultural Recreational Enrichment Centre or FCREC. But we normally go by RDL Parent Council.

I would like to let you know a little about what we do, and encourage you to get involved and participate in your child's school experience.

What we Do: One of the main roles of RDL Parent Council is to be a liaison between parents and staff. We are a group made up of Parents, Teachers, Principals and staff working together to promote student well-being, and enhance student learning. Our goal is: To ensure that the students have the very best experience that they could possibly have while they attend RDL. This involves the purchasing of special Equipment that otherwise students at RDL would not have, and maintaining it.

Red Deer Lake School is fortunate in that students here have access to some of the very best and advanced technology equipment in the Foothills School Division, Great Sports Equipment, and New Band instruments. This however means that Council must fundraise.

Here are a few of the things that we have been able to do at RDL because of fundraising efforts:

Council recently purchased the IPADS that the Grade 3 class will be using to write their SLA (student Learning Assessment) previously known as the PAT test. These were a great addition to the previously purchased computers from council that the kids use daily. Technology is a priority for council. We try to provide the kids the opportunity to use the very best when it comes to Technology.

Council recently replaced the bins used by each class for their Daily Physical Activity with money earned from the last walk-a-thon. In these bins are several different types of equipment that will help the students enjoy DPA

Here are a few of the events and services we take part in:

The Hot lunch program is a co-sponsored event by council and the school and has really become more of a service for moms than anything else.

The rose garden located south of the Elementary doors where students often meet their parents was donated by an individual however, it continues to be maintained by council and Parents, along with the other gardens bordering the school. This work is predominately done in the spring and fall Contact Parent Council if you are interested or if this happens to be a passion.

Council members loves seeing the students showing off their school spirit by wearing some of the great RDL School Dragon inspired clothing that we try to order in and sell each year. This is not done as a Fundraiser.

Every year Parent Council host a lunch for the amazingly dedicated staff at RDL as a small token of our appreciation for all they do thru out the year with our kids.

This year council is attempting to keep you, the Parents advised of what we are doing thru-out the year. Starting with, when the fundraisers will take place. We realizes that you may not be able to take part in all of them, but we appreciate all the assistance that you can give us. Both in your time, your gifts and thru sales. Parent council fundraisers are separate from School sponsored Fundraisers and are run independently. It is our attempt to not overwhelm you with fundraising request, so we are giving you a heads up of when Parent Council sponsored fundraising events will take place, this way you can plan ahead, pick and choose from the list.

The first major fundraiser is the Farm to Table which is currently taking place. This is both a fundraiser and Social Outreach event. An easy way to get your Veggies for Thanksgiving, or to donate to the Food Bank.. Our second fundraising opportunity will start Oct 14 and will be magazine subscriptions and cool Photo books. Our third Fundraiser will Kick off in Feb and will be the Chocolate bar fundraiser, and finally we will close out the year with the Walk-A-Thon the end of May. This is also a Healthy initiative.

Here is why we have to fundraise so much. Aside from the obvious reason that we purchase things for the students that they normally would not have. Council has yearly allocations that we have to pay to the school, this money goes towards things like Awards Night, Science Fair, Sports Equipment, Library, Yearbook, Band (Gr. 6-9), Music (Gr.K-5), Audio Visual Equipment, Fine Arts,

D.A.R.E. and Healthy Red Deer Lake(Providing healthy lunches for kids who forget or need a lunch). We also give each teacher \$150.00 to goes towards the purchase of supplies for their classroom, normally these are paid out of pocket by the teachers. All said this is just shy of about \$10,000.00. Hopefully you can understand why we need to fundraise.

A common misconception that many parents have, has to do with Casino Fundraisers. This money can-not be used to pay any of our yearly Allocations mentioned above. When we apply for a Casino we have to advise the AGLCB (Alberta Gaming Liquor Control Board) what we intend to utilize the funds for before we even take part in the actual event, the items that we are allowed to use the funds for are regulated by the AGLCB and have very specific guidelines that MUST be followed. For example we can't use the funds to purchase anything that would be physically attached to the school (signs etc.) This year we were able to start the replacement of much needed Band equipment with the funds raised, and purchased a number of "Chrome Books" for the Learning commons, As well as some Athletic equipment to name a few. Once the items are purchased we then have to submit copies of the receipts to AGLCB for assessment in order to be placed on the waiting list for another Casino.

So how can you get involved? We are always looking for fresh ideas for fundraising. All of our events need willing hearts and helping hands in order for them to be a success, or they just won't happen. Best part is no experience is necessary. We need parents to help hand out fundraising products, to help with the hot lunch program, handing out food and wrapping hot dogs, we need hands to weed flower beds and till the garden! To help obtain sponsors for the Walk-A-Thon and gather prizes, to run the water station's, We need people with decorating and cooking skills for the staff luncheon... the list goes on...

RDL Parent Council is having our Annual General Meeting on Oct 14 at 7:00 in the Learning Commons at Red Deer Lake School. Everyone are welcome to attend. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday of the month from Sept to June. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

