

# PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

## 2015 CASINO raised \$67 000!

Parent Council is pleased to announce that our 2015 Casino raised \$67,000. WOW! That is a lot of money that can be put to great use!

With these funds, RDL is planning on enhancing and improving learning at RDL in several ways. The first and probably largest undertaking will be the purchase and installation of a new screen and projector for the auditorium.

The system we are currently using is outdated and not large (clear) enough to be seen by everyone when there is an assembly/event in the auditorium. We are very excited to be updating this technology!

Other initiatives include purchasing hokki stools for classrooms, (We currently have hokki stools in the library and will elaborate on their benefits for students in a future newsletter) updating school uniforms, math manipulatives, more musical instruments including handbells, hockey equipment and providing tennis, yoga and in-line skating experiences for students.

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## How Chrome Books are benefitting learning at RDL



Pictured above: Grade 6 students working with Chrome Books

Did you know that last year, RDL used a portion of Casino funds from 2013 to purchase two full carts of chrome books - 66 chrome books in total? These Chrome books are used on a daily basis and benefit our students in a number of ways.

According to grade 8 teacher Mr. Borko, Chrome Books are lightweight, fast booting and a breeze for students to use. They charge quickly and have not had any battery issues to date.

Working with Chrome books allows students to do all of their work online. "This aids in organization," says Borko "because there are no items such as papers, binders or USB sticks to be misplaced, and no need to carry around heavy, cumbersome textbooks."

All assignments on the Chrome books are shared documents which means teachers can see what is being accomplished during and after class time. Mrs. VanHorne, who teaches grade 6 and likes to use Google Classroom, agrees one of the biggest benefits of using the Chrome books is that "no papers are lost and I can provide feedback to my students in a timely manner."

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## Message from our Council Chair

It's hard to believe that it is already April. There are only four more months of school until summer break. It feels like the year is just flying by!

Our February council meeting was well attended with parents interested to hear the latest about Bill 10. The first draft for the guidelines, policies and procedures was released by the foothills division shortly after that meeting and the RDL community then had an opportunity to ask questions and give input.

Parent Council understands that there may still be concerns around the wording of the government mandated bill.

We will keep you updated on the status of the draft that was submitted by the division. In the meantime, we have included a few of the top questions/ concerns that parents had, along with some answers on page 4.

On behalf of RDL we would like to let parents know that RDL intends to continue dealing with issues on a case by case basis all the while, respecting the rights of both parents and students and providing a safe and secure environment for all staff and students.

Our March meeting was spent looking at our existing policy and procedures manual and making necessary amendments to keep it current and relevant.

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She adds, "I can create an assignment, assign it and mark it, all in the same location. It allows me to see how the students are doing, whether they understand the concept being taught and if they are actually working on what they are supposed to be working on."

Recently, Mrs. VanHorne's grade 6 students used the Chrome Books for research on their Marsville project. They spent almost three weeks looking online for useful and relevant info. Students love that the Chrome books have lots of different programs and extensions and that they each have access to one.

While it has mostly been grades 6 and up benefiting from the use of the Chrome books so far, grade 4 and 5 students have started using them as well. Mrs. Bernard's grade 4's have just set themselves up on Google Classroom and will also use the Chrome books for research. Mrs. Culbert uses the Chrome books to teach grade 5 math.

...continued from 2015 Casino raised \$67,000

One might ask, why does Parent Council still need to raise money? Casino funds seem to cover it all...technology, furniture, uniforms, music, health & fitness. Indeed we are very lucky to have casino funds to spend but they do come with strict guidelines on what we can spend the money on. For example, Casino funds cannot be used for anything that is attached to the building. So our water bottle fountain that was purchased last year was done with funds raised by Parent Council. We are also not able to use Casino money for teacher allotments and these allotments allow us to support RDL teachers in making sure they have what they need to give students the best learning experience possible!

In other cases, Parent Council funds have been used to supplement Casino funds. For instance, Parent Council funds went towards the iPads that were purchased for grade 3's a few years ago because Casino funds didn't cover the full amount needed to ensure each child had an iPad. Similarly, Parent Council funds aided with refurbishing the library when there weren't enough Casino funds to complete the job.

Raising funds through Parent Council basically ensures that we can meet all our needs and that we have a slush fund to cover things that Casino funds don't cover.



# Council Members in the Spotlight



## **Amber DenHoed**

I joined Council because I wanted to be involved with the school, and to help make it the best experience possible for my daughter and for the students at RDL.

Being a member has been an amazing experience. I have made new friends, been involved in some great initiatives and I have been able to see how Council helps to provide students with the very best tools, experiences, technology & opportunities to enhance their education.

Member since 2011



## **Amanda Sanderson**

I joined council because I knew I couldn't be a classroom volunteer with my work schedule and I felt this was a better way to learn what's going on at the school, meet the faculty and other parents.

Being a member has made me appreciate all the hard work that everyone does to make RDL such a great school for every family attending.

Member since 2011



## **Danielle Camp**

I joined Council because I felt like it was a way to stay in touch with what happens in the school and a way to contribute to more than just the classroom.

Being a member has given me the opportunity to make connections with staff that otherwise may have been limited based on my kids ages, and meet other parents in the school for the same reasons.

Member since 2011

## **IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS....**

### **YOGA classes**

Thanks to the funds raised by last year's Walk-A-Thon, the health and fitness of RDL students was enriched in January 2016 with the addition of yoga classes.

### **Magazine Fundraiser**

Our Magazine Service provided at the beginning of the 2015/2016 school year raised \$1,505.46!

### **Spirit Wear**

Launched just before the Christmas holidays, our new website for RDL Spirit Wear is doing well and a number of orders have been placed! RDL Parent Council receives 10% of the sales for Spirit Clothing. Mother's Day and Father's Day are just around the corner...so if you are looking for a great gift idea, why not try something to show your RDL Dragon pride!

Please go to the RDL website: <http://reddeerlake.fsd38.ab.ca/> and click on our Quicklinks, or go to <http://urstore.ca/schools/ca/alberta/calgary/red-deer-lake-school-dragons>

Council Chair message cont'd...

The manual can be viewed on the Parent Council section of the Red Deer Lake School website.

We are very pleased to have started the transition of having our meeting minutes and any other pertinent council info in our section on the school website.

Parent Council has also been busy with the undertaking of the Hot Lunch program. Thank you once again to Pam and Joy for taking care of this program to date.

Lastly, if you are looking at getting involved with Council but just can't commit to attending our meetings, please stay tuned as we will soon be looking for people to volunteer for specific jobs on different dates! You can sign up to volunteer on the RDL website.

**Amber Den Hoed**

Council Chair

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday April 12th, 2016**

RDL Learning Commons

## Contact Us

To find out more about School Council or if you have any questions, please contact:

Amber @  
adenhoed13@gmail.com

or check for updates on our website @  
<http://reddeerlake.fsd38.ab.ca>

You can also follow RDL on Twitter @RedDeerLakeScho

## Bill 10 Q & A

At the School Council Meeting in February, parents brought some of their questions and concerns regarding Bill 10. FSD Trustee Christine Pretty and Assistant Superintendent Allen Davidson were there to respond. Here were the top questions/concerns along with answers that were provided.

**Q** - Will boys be using the same washroom as my daughter?

**A** - By having a safe environment, the rights of one student will NOT be put ahead of the safety of most and so, No, a boy won't be able to suddenly exercise his "right" to be in the washroom with the girls.

**Q** - Will girls be in the boys change room and vice versa?

**A** - Keeping every student safe means just that. Every case/situation will be dealt with on an individual basis and the safety of EVERY student will be considered, not just one.

**Q** - Will the gender identity now be taught in the younger classes?

**A** - No, the Health curriculum has not changed and this is not part of the curriculum.

Gender issues have been going on in schools for years. Staff always look for solutions that provide safety for everyone. Rest assured that the FSD staff will continue to develop strong relationships with students and will care for your children with respect and dignity.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the FSD at [FSDInformation@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:FSDInformation@fsd38.ab.ca) or Christine Pretty has said that she may be contacted directly at [Prettyc@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:Prettyc@fsd38.ab.ca).

## Landscaping

In the fall, grade 7 students planted tulip bulbs in the garden beds at the back of the school in memory of Sehaj. The tulips are now starting to come up and the landscaping committee will be putting a fence around them to keep them safe.

**Please note:** If you are preparing your garden for spring and you are thinning out any perennial plants, we will gladly accept donations!

*RDL Parent Council would like to offer our support and well wishes to Council Member Melanie Nielson and her family, as their son Ethan recovers from his accident.*

