

PARENT COUNCIL NEWS

Parent Council funding helps with Classroom Supplies

RDL Parent Council is proud to be able to support our teachers every year with an allotment of \$150 each to go towards classroom supplies. The types of supplies purchased vary from year to year but items that are commonly bought are: bulletin board supplies, craft supplies, science material, books, math manipulatives and classroom and seasonal celebration supplies.

We know that many teachers in our province pay out of pocket for these types of supplies so we are pleased to be able to help out with the funds that we raise each year to make sure our teachers at RDL have what they need to give students the best learning experience possible.

Pictured to the right are examples of some science materials that were purchased and used in Ms. Patterson's grade 3 class this year.

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HOKKI STOOLS

Fidgeting in the classroom is an age old problem but thankfully, in today's day and age, there are some great new tools and strategies to help deal with fidgeting behaviour. The Hokki stool is one tool that is being used at Red Deer Lake School. Purchased with funds from our 2013 Casino fundraiser, Hokki stools were first introduced to the Learning Commons area along with new desks and other furniture. Since then teachers have started incorporating the Hokki stools right into their classrooms. Here's why: Hokki stools are ergonomic with a convex base that allows movement - rocking, twisting and turning - which is critical to student development and well-being.

In the words of three different teachers at RDL:

"I have two students who use them often. They find it easier to work sitting down when they can move around."

"I have my Hokki stools at my work table and they are great for keeping my small group 'awake' and focused!"

"Many students use them for reading and seem to read well for longer periods of time when using the stools."



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Message from our Council Chair

Parent Council is very excited about the work we have accomplished this year. We took care of two huge housekeeping items: The revision of the Policy & Procedures Manuals and the formulation of a Three-Year-Plan. In addition, we took over the responsibility of running the Hot Lunch Program and revitalized the Landscaping Committee.

Parent Council welcomed new families at our Kindergarten Orientation by providing coffee and timbits and once again we were pleased to show our appreciation for all RDL staff by providing a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. This year the lunch was catered and staff enjoyed some tasty Mexican themed food along with fresh fruit and dessert!

Money raised through Parent Council in combination with our casino funds have supported many important purchases over the last 10 months. These have included new classroom supplies, Learning Commons equipment, technology upgrades, bringing in Yoga and Tennis instructors, other physical activity equipment and many more things that will arrive in time for the start of next year. All of which continue to enhance student learning at RDL. We hope you enjoy reading about some of these things in this issue of our Council News.

Please take note of the survey that is going out this week. We kindly ask that you take 2 minutes of your time to fill it out and help us with the planning for next year. All those who complete the survey are eligible to enter a draw for a fantastic prize!

On behalf of Parent Council I would like to first, congratulate all of the students and parents who are graduating from RDL this year.

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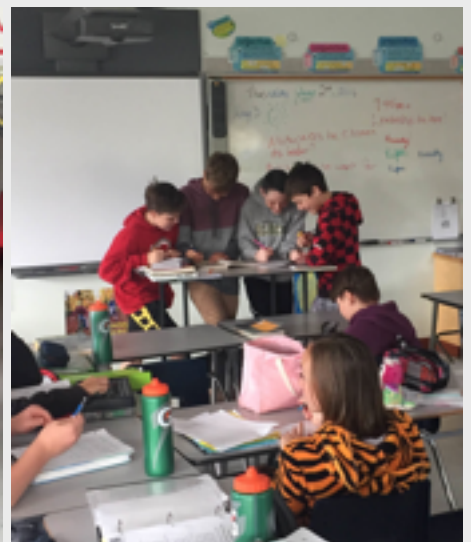
Classroom supplies cont'd...

Pictured here are two of Mrs. Castonguay's grade one students using some checker boards that were purchased with her annual allotment.

Hokki stools cont'd...

Hokki stools not only help to calm the wiggles, they also help to improve posture and develop trunk control by using them. In addition, the stools are lightweight so they are easy for teachers to use too, as a way to go around the classroom and help students without having to kneel, squat or bend over. The benefits to having Hokki stools in the classroom are endless.

With our 2015 Casino funds we have been able to start adding a few more tools to further aid with learning in the classroom. Pictured below & to the left is a stationary bike and to the right, a stand up desk, both in use in one of our grade 9 classrooms! Please learn more about these two unique pieces of equipment in our next council newsletter!



Please join us for our last Parent Council Meeting of the year:
Tuesday June 14, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Learning Commons.
Everyone is welcome!

Council Members in the Spotlight



Natasha Hubbard

I joined council because I wanted to know what was happening at our school beyond the eyes of my kids. I wanted to see if I could help with events or programs and bring some new ideas to the school.

Being a member has been lots of fun! It's great meeting other parents and it has made me feel more connected to the school.

Member since 2015



Deena Semeniuk

I joined Council because I wanted to know what was going on in our school. I also wanted to help the school in any way that I could.

Being a member has given me the opportunity to get to know different parents and staff members at the school.

Member since 2014.



Gillian White

I joined Council because I was new to the school and thought it would be a great place to meet other parents, get to know the staff and learn more about what RDL was all about.

Being a member has been very informative. I've learned so much about our school and the division and have gotten to know some amazing people!

Member since 2011

Did you know... that Parent Council launched an information series this year as part of their monthly meetings?

We will continue the series next year as a way of sharing important educational information with parents. We have a list of topics that we feel would be of great interest to RDL families... but we need your feedback! **Please take a minute to complete our survey** that is coming out this week to help determine the upcoming topics and to help Parent Council serve you better! All those who participate are eligible to be entered in a draw to win a prize!

Thank you to Mrs. Culbert & Ms. Leyden for presenting at our first session on the topic of Leadership and how schools around the world are inspiring greatness, one child at a time!

Council Chair message cont'd...

We wish you the very best in High School! And second, thank you for all you have contributed over the years. It has made a difference at RDL. Remember, "Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon."

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who attended Parent Council meetings and events and who volunteered their time with RDL. We couldn't do what we do without you. This year was a success because of the involvement of people like you.

Have a great summer everyone! May you make many memories, enjoy family time, relax and become re-energized. Most importantly whatever you do, be safe. We will see you next school year.

In closing I would like to leave you with this...

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."

- Dr. Seuss
Oh The Places You'll Go.

Amber Den Hoed
Council Chair

Contact Us

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

You can also follow RDL on
Twitter @RedDeerLakeScho

Council Updates...

Teacher Appreciation Lunch A Success!

On Friday May 5th, Parent Council organized a Lunch for RDL teachers & staff to show them how much RDL families appreciate everything they do! This year, the lunch was catered by Costa Vida and the feedback was amazing. Thank you to the volunteers who organized the event and who came out to help that day!

Last Minute Father's Day Gift Idea!

Keep your eye out! Sample spirit wear has been ordered and will soon be on display at the school. In the meantime, don't forget that Father's Day is just around the corner and if you are stumped for an idea, why not consider RDL spirit wear as a gift idea?! 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> to make your purchase. All clothing can be customized to suit your specific tastes!



A HUGE THANK YOU to the Millarville Horticultural Club!

A huge THANK YOU to the Millarville Horticultural Club for their \$350 grant to our Landscaping Committee! The funds were used to go toward the materials for the new garden beds at the front entrance to the school.

Our Landscaping committee has also been busy working on the interior landscape of our school. If you have not yet seen the changes in our front entrance, we invite you to come inside and take a look! Thank you so much to Theresa Letendre for taking initiative on these projects and for continuing to make our school look welcoming and beautiful!

