



MEMORANDUM

To: Parent Involvement Committee

From: Michele Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services

Date: 11 October 2019

Re: **2019-2020 Parent Conference and School Council Training Day**

The Parent Conference and School Council Training Day will be held on Saturday, 09 November 2019 at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School.

This year, the District is making some changes to the structure of the Conference based on feedback from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and participants of last years. Parents expressed concerns about having to choose between workshops which are of interest to them as parents, and workshops which support them in their school council role. In response, this year the Conference will be divided into two parts; morning session and afternoon session. Participants can register for the morning session, the afternoon session, or both.

MORNING SESSION

The morning session will be focused on parenting and children's education and well-being. It will include a keynote presentation followed by presentation-style workshops. Staff plans to run a maximum of ten workshops, each will be offered twice (workshop 1 and workshop 2) to give each participant the opportunity to attend two different workshops of their choice.

Based on parents' feedback and PIC discussions, the following topics and possible subject matter leads have been identified as areas of interest for the morning session:

Topics	Lead
Developing self-regulation in children	Learning Support Services
Understanding and identifying mental health concerns	Learning Support Services
Vaping - What is it, how to parent it?	Ottawa Public Health
How to get kids cooperating without yelling, threats, bribes or punishment?	Dr. Laura Markham
Math	Program and Learning
Understanding and accessing Special education supports	Learning Support Services

Culture, curriculum and identity - understanding identity and education	Equity and Learning
Innovation and Learning	Innovation and Adolescent Learning
Sexting, texting and protecting your kids	OPS
When does gaming become an addiction?	Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services

The following is the schedule for the morning activities:

Time	Topic	Details
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Child Care - Drop Off	Berrigan Public School
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration	Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School (LDHSS) Coffee/Tea/Fruit/Muffins
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction	Auditorium LDHSS Camille Williams-Taylor Director of Education
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Keynote Address (including Q&A)	Dr. Laura Markham Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids
10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	Transition	
10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Parent Workshop 1	Classrooms - 10 Workshops
11:40 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Transition	
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Parent Workshop 2	Classrooms - 10 Workshops
12:45 p.m.	Morning Session Ends	

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session will be a two-hour session with parents who are interested in school council-related topics. Thoughtexchange will be used at the beginning of the session to invite participants to identify the topics they would like to discuss. Based on staff interactions with schools councils and the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC), we anticipate the following topics to surface:

- School Council 101
- School Council Constitutions
- School Council Finance
- School Council Websites
- Navigating social media
- Fundraising
- Risk Management
- Greening your playground

Staff plans to prepare tip sheets on these topics for distribution at the Conference and will use the information that participants share through the Thoughtexchange to build content for the school council newsletter over the course of the year.

Participants would have an opportunity to engage in three 30-minute conversations about the three topics of greatest interest to them. This session will run through small group discussions allowing for more interactions amongst participants and staff and better understanding of the perspectives and concerns of parents.

The following is the schedule for the afternoon activities:

Time	Topic	Details
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Round Table Discussions (School Council Training)	Cafeteria
3:35 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Child care - Pick up	Berrigan Public School

cc: Corporate Records