

Armstrong PAC Meeting - September

Date: September 17, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:00

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Introductions

Parent Education: *What is PAC?*

Presenter: Sandra Ramos

- PAC - Parent Advisory Committee, organizes school events, fundraisers, supports school field trips
- DPAC- District PAC, looks at issues affecting more than one school in the district
- BC Confederation of PACs - registered nonprofit that represents parents of children attending public schools in BC

Icebreaker: Emma

New Business:

1. Principal Update
 - a. Brett - City of Burnaby (CoB) Parks and Rec Program Coordinator for SE communities
 - i. Oversees after school programs out of Armstrong
 - ii. Open to feedback for programs we'd like to see
 - iii. Fall programming available for registration
 - iv. Still have spaces this year, particularly for preschool-aged
 - v. Fair Play Program - Financial Assistance and Inclusion for Residents program (takes place of recreation credit program). Can receive credits towards programs if they qualify (income level, certain groups). Under 14yrs old, can receive \$500 towards programming (e.g. after school, arts, swimming).
 - vi. Grade 5 BeActive program - all grade 5 students in Burnaby get a full access pass to gymnasiums, pools, driving ranges. Fill out the application

form, then take it to any rec centre for your pass. Gr 5 is a critical age for building healthy lifestyles

- vii. Every school is eligible for free support for up to 4hrs if running an event - CoB Rec can provide activities! (e.g. life-sized lego-like blocks, face painting, big games, craft table) Any additional hours, would have to pay staff wages
- viii. Programs: crafts, leadership (older), babysitting (older)
- ix. Access Coordinator for the year - eligible 120hours yearly of additional support for free (assuming staff availability). Other programming specific for youths and adults
- x. School programs usually scheduled seasonally (Sept-Dec, Jan-mid-March, April-June), but may be able to add on programs depending on staffing
- b. School Growth Plan Goals
 - i. Literacy - emerging and developing literacy
 - ii. School Development goal - exploring explicit and intentional strategies to build attunement
- c. School opening
 - i. Why temporary classes
 - 1. Many registrations over the summer that impact organization and numbers
 - 2. Do preliminary organization in June
 - 3. Sometimes have to add a class or take away
 - 4. Takes time because every day in the first week, school is sending in numbers to the district for them to look at bigger picture
 - 5. Once school receives approval, then students move to their new classes as quickly as able
 - 6. Year to year it can vary
- d. Combined grades (split classes)
 - i. 21 divisions with only 5 classes that are not combined grades
 - ii. Combined grades intention is not for students to get only lower grade or higher grade curriculum
 - iii. Students get curriculum relative to their grade
 - iv. Learning is developmental, not based on grade silos

- v. Curriculum is very similar from grade to grade
 - vi. Curricular competencies will be the common thread to working through the curriculum
 - vii. Due to class size limits and class composition requirements, we will continue to have combined grades
- e. Parking lot rules
 - i. Consider the health and safety of students, staff, and families
 - ii. Please do not block crosswalks
- f. All classes are paired up with buddy classes
 - i. Intermediate are big buddies for Primary
 - ii. Aim for a 4 year split
 - iii. Do events together throughout the year
- 2. Head Teacher Update
 - a. Absent today
- 3. PAC Goals - open to your ideas! Please reach out!
 - a. Community Building
 - i. Games nights, arts nights - goal is to get kids to interact with one another
 - ii. Grade 7 parents - every year they form a grad committee to plan events. Reach out to PAC or Jeffery if you would like to be involved
 - iii. Advocacy event BCCPAC
 - b. Increased engagement
 - i. Encourage a friend to come to the next meeting
 - ii. Job Jar - check the Armstrong website (parent section) - ways to help out, lists the various ways you can help!
- 4. DPAC Update - Doug
 - a. First meeting on monday
 - b. Representatives from High schools and elementary schools
 - c. We are part of Lougheed-Cariboo with a strong representative
 - d. Interest in connecting across geographic regions
 - e. Superintendent and board representatives present - effective way to connect with district decision makers
 - f. Learn about space and resources
 - g. District's proposed budget of significant cuts, including cutting a band program for students in grade 7

- h. Monday meeting approved budget for the year
 - i. District strategic plan on the website
 - j. Advocacy - CTV looking for stories of impacts of cuts on their children - if you have a story, please connect with Doug
 - k. Cuts: custodial, programming
 - l. Issues you'd like brought forward to DPAC - connect with Doug
5. Budget Update
- a. Summary of last school year's budget
 - b. \$7300 profit from last year
 - c. Athletic funds: \$3000 fund carryover to prep for a bigger purchase this year (per school's request, trying to purchase gaga mats)
 - d. Two categories over budget last year
 - i. Pancake breakfast - \$120 over
 - ii. Babysitters for PAC - \$120 over
 - e. Successful fundraising last year - Neufeld, Purdy's, Art Project, Choices, Fun lunches, - combined profit \$2700
 - f. No movie nights this year - cost of subscription expensive and goal of PAC was community building so opted for more social events
 - g. Went into last year with \$3000 deficit and came out with a \$7000 surplus
 - h. Budget for this year is posted on the school website, please email PAC if you have questions
6. Upcoming School Events
- a. Pumpkin Patch - Likely Wednesday October 22
 - i. Coordinating with local grocery stores - Choices at the Crest will be donating our pumpkins once again!
 - ii. Front lawn will be turned into a pumpkin patch for the primary grades
 - iii. Primary classes go to the lawn with their big buddies
 - iv. Will need 4 or 5 parent volunteers to transport pumpkins from Choices to the gym. Grades 6 and 7s will set up in lawn.
 - b. Family Games Night - Friday October 17
 - i. Come on out!
 - ii. It's our first games night so we are open to suggestions
 - iii. Accepting donations of lightly used board games
 - iv. Drop off donations in main foyer on Fridays from 2:45-3:15

- c. Fun Lunch - Friday October 3rd
 - i. Log in to MunchALunch, enter children's info, and order
 - ii. There will be more lunches
 - iii. If anyone wants to run a lunch, Emma can walk you through it! Email PAC if interested
 - iv. First lunch - Dominos, supporting our local community
 - 1. One box, 2 slices
 - v. Other places have reached out - Emma will discuss further at October meeting
- d. Pancake Breakfast - December 5
 - i. Firefighter volunteers will be providing the pancakes
 - ii. Firefighters will cook the pancakes
 - iii. Parents will serve the pancakes
 - iv. Parents do not need food safe certificate to serve
 - v. What's served: pancakes, will be options for kids with diet restrictions (fruit cups and yogurt)
 - vi. Gym will be decorated like a winter wonderland

7. Fundraising

- a. MunchALunch
- b. Neufeuld Farms - end of October
 - i. Purchase frozen food in large quantities
 - ii. Good before christmas
 - iii. Receive a portion of the sales
- c. Purdy's -end of November
 - i. Before christmas
 - ii. Receive a portion of the sales
- d. Art Project=
 - i. products with your kids artwork on it
 - ii. Will do every other year
- e. Family photos
 - i. Spring
- f. Gardenworks gift cards
 - i. Spring
- g. Mabels Labels

- i. Can pick armstrong from a list, we get a percentage back
- h. Pedelheads
 - i. Select Armstrong, we get a percentage back
- i. Cobbs Bread in Loughheed
 - i. Mention Armstrong, we get 5% back
- j. Yearbooks - will update in October
- 8. New Items:
 - a. Roberta Anzellini resigning from Fundraising co-chair
 - b. Roberta Anzellini hereby appointed as member-at-large
 - c. Jessica Narayan hereby appointed to be Fundraising co-chair
- 9. Cariboo Graduating Scholarship for Armstrong alum
 - a. Nathan (last year's recipient) provided a thank you card to PAC
- 10. Social Media:
 - a. Private Armstrong Facebook and Instagram groups. You will be asked security questions to ensure we retain our privacy. Please join the groups and encourage your friends. No pictures of kids will be posted.
 - b. WhatsApp volunteer group
 - i. Add your name and number to the sign-up list or request via email
 - c. Questions, ideas? Connect by email armstrongschoolpac@gmail.com

Q&A Period:

Idea: Pumpkins after dark to showcase the kids pumpkins. Let's consider this for next year. If anyone is interested in helping to plan, please contact PAC.

Question about what happened to the school carnival: in the budget now, goal to start planning in the Spring for a welcome back carnival that would be held in Sept 2026. Please contact PAC if you would like to help.

Question around toy drives. We do an initiative where school collects toys to donate, but are mindful that we serve a community that receives a lot of supports

Part of a community of schools (Armstrong, Second Street, Cariboo): share resources, Second Street has a staff member that provides supports to Armstrong families

No daytime janitor, will there be trash cans outside for the students? Who will take care of the leaves from trees out front?

- Jen is not sure, two garbage cans outside and will put reminders in the announcements.
- Person comes in the morning to open the grounds and is supposed to do a grounds sweep
- Gr 6/7 leadership work in this area
- Suggestion: during morning announcements, every student is accountable to keep the school beautiful and clean by putting the garbage in the bin

Locks on bathroom doors were not working

- Keys for the exterior bathroom doors
- Don't have staff to consistently lock/unlock doors
- Concerns around safety, if they get unlocked then may not get re-locked
- They are remaining locked at this time to preserve building security
- Kids need to go around to the front of the school

Stall doors in girls washroom not working

- Jen will follow up

Call for Motions:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 6:30-8:00

Meeting Adjournment: 8:16pm