

HPAC 2015-16 Annual Report

Good evening. Before I begin with our HPAC annual review of activities, I would like to acknowledge the many members of the Handsworth community whose help and cooperation has made our year such a success.

Many thanks go to the **HSS office staff**, lead by Trace Bell, for facilitating parent communications and working with us on PAC financial matters.

We thank **Eddie and the other custodians** on staff for taking care of arrangements for our meeting rooms and helping us out around the building as needed.

Dr. O and VPs Erica and Justin have been great supporters of the PAC. We really appreciate the extra hours they have put in attending events and value the information they bring to each PAC meeting. We'd also like to thank the many **teachers** who have supported our efforts and given their time by attending PAC meetings. Not to mention the many other out-of –school hours they put in supporting our kids.

Our **Handsworth students**, I think you will all agree, are amazing, and as I review the HPAC events this year you will see that students have been very much involved with us.

And finally, of course, we thank all **parents** who “show up” again and again – supporting the success of all our kids through your involvement in the school.

All of our HPAC activities are guided by the school mission statement, which reads:

“The Handsworth Community develops empowered, innovative and compassionate learners who lead and serve with curiosity and integrity”

A strong focus for the HPAC is connecting parents with the information they need to support their students during the high school years. We also make it our mission to highlight to our parent community the excellence and diversity in student learning and experience that is going at Handsworth every day.

Here's a review of what we got up to this year:

At our **September** meeting we like to introduce parents to a cross section of the Handsworth community. Our guests this year included the following: Elise and Zach from Handsworth Student Council who shared their plans for the year and their hopes to work with parents on shared ventures. We also met Mark Pearmain, currently Assistant Superintendent of North Vancouver School District but who was recently appointed Superintendent to replace John Lewis when he retires this July. Mark explained his role at the District and brought us up-to-date on the goings-on in NVSD 44. Claudia Lefevbre, school nurse from Vancouver Coastal Health, described the health services available to Handsworth students and families. Stacey Schwegler, HSS Counsellor, told us about "Royal Time" the peer mentoring program she has developed and implemented to match trained grade 12 mentors with incoming grade 8 students. Finally, we heard from all three members of our Admin team with a special presentation by new Handsworth principal Dr. David Overgaard. Following the meeting we were entertained by a Handsworth student jazz quartette.

Also in September, the HPAC chairs spoke to parents at the Grade 8 Parent night and the PAC exec provided refreshments at that event.

Managing Conflict with your Teenager's Brain in Mind was the topic of our special speaker event held in **October**. [Raj Dhasi](#), lead over 200 participants in an interactive work shop helping us understand how the developing teen brain influences behaviour. She shared with us practical strategies for resolving differences with teenagers, setting limits on objectionable behaviour, and keeping cool while assisting teens to self-regulate.

At our **November** meeting, Science teacher [Erica Toombs](#) and English and Business Education teacher [Mark Barrett](#) demonstrated the innovative ways they are using technology to support learning in their classrooms. Also, the HPAC executive presented its 2015-16 budget for approval. Over \$30,000 in gaming funds were allocated to support student activities and experiences at Handsworth this year. Kathy will provide all the details of how these funds were used in the upcoming Treasurer's Report.

Unfortunately, a further event planned for November, *Understanding the University Admissions Process*, with Options Solutions educational consultants -- for which we had registered over 150 participants -- had to be cancelled due to a massive power failure brought on by strong wind storms. We hope to re-schedule for next year.

In **January**, our meeting guest was **Dr. Mark Lysyshyn**, North Shore Medical Health Officer. Dr. Lysyshyn's topic was "What We know about Adolescent Health on the North Shore". He talked us through the facts about what is known about the physical and emotional health of our North Van students and the role parents can play to promote positive health outcomes for our kids. A lively question and answer period followed the presentation.

Also in January, the HPAC chairs attended the January NV Board of Education meeting to speak in favour of a staff recommendation for the Rebuild Option for the Handsworth replacement project (as opposed to seismic upgrade). The Board approved the rebuild option and we continue to monitor the progress of this initiative!

In **February** the spotlight was on our Handsworth Students. Meeting attendees, including many invited grade 7 parents from our feeder schools, were privileged to listen to 18 different students speak about some of the life-enriching and perspective-broadening opportunities available at our school. These energetic and enthusiastic Handsworth learners shared their experiences and accomplishments in Handsworth programs, clubs and activities including: [fine arts](#), drama and music; athletics and sports leadership; French immersion; environmental protection; cultural exchange; academic and career exploration; and student leadership. The wonderful Handsworth jazz ensemble was once again on hand for our entertainment pleasure. It was truly an amazing and enlightening event. We take our hats off to our Handsworth students!

We were also fortunate at this meeting to welcome North Vancouver School District Superintendent **John Lewis**, who gave parents the latest news and answered many questions regarding plans for the [rebuild of the Handsworth](#).

Special guests at our **April** meeting were Sheri Johnson, Business Education and Economics teacher and Peggy Louise, Work Experience Facilitator who told parents about some of the outstanding volunteer and work experience opportunities available to our students.

They shared with us some of the information available through the school's Career Centre website, which is a fantastic resource for students and parents of Handsworth. Make sure you visit the site at <http://hsscareercenter.weebly.com/>

Coming up on **June 28th** is the annual HPAC Staff Appreciation lunch. Please watch your email for information on how you can contribute to this event to thank our teachers and staff members for all they do for our kids.

Tonight is our last HPAC meeting of the year. We will reconvene next September. In the meanwhile, please keep in touch via our website www.handsworthpac.com We welcome your input, feedback, questions, and any ideas you may have for programming next year.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Ramsay
May 16, 2016