

Our Lady of Victory Parent Committee Meeting



Monday, February 23, 2026

Present: Melissa Fraser-Arnott, Jessica Doyle, Kate Goodwin, Laura Haller, Vanessa Holmes, Karen Kealey, Richard Rehder, Adriana Scholtes, Jessica Swietochowski, Phyllis Tran, Jacky (Jin Qi) Zeng

Welcome, Opening Prayer, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions

Principal / Teacher Report

- Black History Month: Ms. Sarah got initiatives going.
 - Artists' Gallery Walk
- Boy's Handball
- Student Census: Coming out tomorrow
- Grade 6 Grad Photos
- Superintendent visit
- Skating: Second trip tomorrow at Pinecrest
- Girls' Handball
- Family Day Holiday
- Shrove Tuesday: Thank you to everyone who came and helped with the cooking.
- Ash Wednesday: Students received their ashes and a few families came
- Sessions on stress management, managing conflict
- Report cards went home this month. Term 2 IPs coming.
- New buddy bench was donated by Proud To Be Me. They support anti-bullying work. Deciding where to place the bench.
- Welcome to Miss Kelly in the Assessment Class. She is here to cover a maternity leave.
- March Break: Will have spirit days in the week before. This will include fun days like crazy socks and crazy hair day.
- EQAO Results:
 - Overall our scores went up from last year. We are happy about improvements in literacy. Math is still a struggle.
 - We have put a push on literacy in the school with two empower groups
 - Will share the link so that families can log onto the site and look at results.

January Minutes

- No modifications requested
- Minutes will be posted on the school website in PDF format

Treasurer's Report

- No cheques signed or deposited in the past month

Events

EA Appreciation Lunch

- The event went well. The EAs were appreciative of the event and the recognition.
- They appreciated the abundance of food.

Shrove Tuesday

- 534 regular pancakes and 18 gluten-free pancakes were made. Very few leftovers at the end of service.
- It was easier to serve in the classrooms, but this approach prevents students from mingling in the gym (better sense of community).
- Would speed the process to separate the plates in advance for next year.
- Laura made all of the pancakes this year.
- We should also acquire additional trays for next year.

Family Winterfest

- Event happening this Friday. We are expecting mild weather on the night of the event.
- Communications
 - o Laura has prepared printed handouts for the event.
 - o The newsletter contained a brief blurb about the event and it was missing details.
 - o A special email for the event is recommended for tomorrow and/or Thursday as well as a posting on the Facebook group.
- PIC Grant
 - o Following up with CSPA on the status of our grant as we haven't received a reply. Because we haven't received a confirmation, we haven't booked Luv2Groove this year. As an alternative, we will set up the speaker system to play music during the event.
 - o No money has been spent so far. If we receive confirmation that we are approved for the grant, then we'll use the grant for food costs. Any unspent grant money can be allocated toward the Kinder Night or Year End Social. We wait for approval before cashing any grant cheques.
- Activities:
 - o Ice blocks have been prepared. We should have enough and multiple sizes have been made.
 - o Tug of war rope has been ordered again for this year.

- o Looking for spray bottles for snow paint
 - o OLV has sleds, but parents will need to supervise their children
 - o Ordering glow sticks again for this event
- Luv2Groove is coming to OLV's classrooms in April, so students will still have an opportunity to participate in this activity.
- Microphone: May not be needed for the Winterfest event, but will be useful for the raffle at the Summer Social. OLV has one available.
- Will wait to assess weather conditions in setting snack and hot chocolate table placement at this year's event. Would prefer to place tables outside.
- Volunteer needs:
 - o Not many volunteers needed for this event.
 - o People for serving hot chocolate and snacks.
 - o Event lasts 1.5 hours, so people can rotate to allow people time to participate.

Kinder Night

- March 26th
- Carnival Theme
- Fresh popcorn will be served. We have stencils for face painting
- If we receive grant money, we will purchase carnival games. If we don't receive the grant money we will put together carnival games ourselves. There is a bean bag toss game available at OLV.

Movie Night

- Potential Dates: April 10
- Some parents have asked for one event per month. Movie nights can be added to the event schedule.
- We will need to alert the school when we choose the dates so that there are no conflicting gym nights.
- We don't have any Parent Council Meetings scheduled prior to this event date, so we could set a special meeting for volunteers.
- We need to decide whether to include a pizza order again with the event. We don't use pizza orders as a fundraising option – we only charge enough to cover the order and deliver costs. Recommend keeping the pizza options the same: cheese, pepperoni, gluten-free, and vegan.
- Want to make sure that school pizza order date doesn't fall too close to movie night pizza ordering to avoid confusion. The next school lunch pizza order should happen in March.
- Movie selection: we have a list of potential movies. We could set our top three and send these options to the classrooms for the final decision. Parent Council has selected all previous movies, but we want to involve students/families in the decision. We could potentially post a poll on the Facebook group.

Easter Baskets

- For the past 7 years Laura has prepared hampers for families in the OLV community. We need a number and budget so that we can determine how many hampers to create.
- We created 34 hampers at Christmas, would look to create the same number for Easter.

Additional Ideas

- Potential of introducing a hot dog lunch once per month
 - o We could start by planning one and see if we want to continue going forward
 - o We could use school cash online to help us to plan the number of hot dogs that we need to prepare.
 - o Is School Cash Online the best option? We lose money due to the system's administrative fees. Additionally, Some parents don't like sending students in with cash. An alternative option is to have teachers send home an order form with each student so that we have an idea of numbers
 - o Potential cost: If we create bundles such as a hot dog and a drink, we could increase the cost to \$2, which would work better for School Cash Online
 - o Would be held during school hours (lunch). Could be a picnic if the weather cooperates.
 - o Jessica S. would be the event coordinator. Will discuss at our next meeting.

Summer BBQ

- Potential event dates: June 9 with a rain date of June 16
- Raffle prizes and donations
 - o Have begun preparing outreach communications to businesses for raffle prizes and food donations for the event.
 - o Have reached out to multiple businesses so far using the OLV email account. Looking for ideas for additional businesses to contact.
- Forms: Have prepared volunteer forms for all future events.
- Photobooth
 - o Potential of creating a photobooth for the BBQ or other future events. Once connected to Wi-Fi you can put in email after the 3-4 pictures are taken and send email automatically.
 - o Photo releases: This wouldn't be connected to OLV's photo release forms. We may need to create a new photo release form / disclaimer stating that photos would be deleted after 30 days.
 - o Would want parents to receive information in advance so they understand the privacy details ahead of participating
 - o An option is to allow parents to take their own photos instead of emailing photos to them
- Budget: To be determined.
- Equipment
 - o Microphones: OLV has one and a megaphone that can be used

- o Walkie-talkies: OLV has a set. Several Council members have sets to lend.

CSPA

- Next meeting is February 25 at 7pm at the OCSB Board Office at 570 West Hunt Club
- Sign up on Eventbrite to attend
- There is another focus group coming up in May

Other Business

Fundraising Options

- Chocolate bar fundraiser
 - o A survey was sent out to the school community about the potential of offering chocolate bars for sale this year
 - o The survey showed that approximately 60 boxes would be sold. We would earn \$3000 if we sold 60 boxes (3 bars for \$5).
 - o Can review a product list and see the chocolate bar options. There are pricing differences between the different types of bars. Will ask about mixing and matching types of bars.
 - o We could sell bars at the BBQ and movie night.
 - o Would like to order this week so that bars arrive in time for Easter.
 - o We are proceeding with ordering chocolate bars. Need to decide the bar type(s) and number of boxes.
 - Recommend buying 60 to sell out. If we sell out and there is more demand we can order additional boxes.
 - The order takes no more than a week to arrive.
 - o Families can come to the school to pick up their orders or we can send orders home with students. We prefer to get parent signatures when boxes are picked up.
- Seeds (Make it Sow)
 - o A Canadian company
 - o Orders can be placed online or on paper order forms
 - o There is no minimum order quantity requirement
 - o OLV would receive 50% profit from every paper order placed or 45% profit from online orders
 - o For every 10 seed packages that we sell, the company plants a tree in OLV's name
 - o There is no effort on the Parent Council's part beyond setting up the order. There is no upfront order or administrative paperwork
 - o All orders are sent in a bulk shipment to the school on a date specified by the fundraiser.
 - o We will need volunteers to sort orders and delivery of items to families picking up seeds at the school.

- o They also offer spice packages. Want to give the option for both seeds and spices.
- o Prices vary between large packages for \$24 to smaller packages for \$10.
- o Voted to proceed with the fundraiser. We can open immediately and run until at least the end of April. Could keep open as long as mid-May.
- o Will use the online ordering option.

Next Meeting

- Monday, April 20th, 6:30 p.m.