

# Minnewasta PAC Bulletin



Spring 2021 Edition



Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.

Bob Beauprez

meetville.com

## Minnewasta Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

- Everyone is welcome to attend with no obligation to do anything – it's your link to the school!
- Opportunity for Minnewasta families to ask questions regarding all aspects of school, hear the principal's monthly report, fundraising initiatives, staff appreciation plans, learn about upcoming Minnewasta school events, and much more!
- All PAC minutes and bulletins are on the Minnewasta website under the tab "For Parents"
- Upcoming meetings for 2021 – **May 11 @ 7:00 PM** will be virtual – a link will be sent out via e-mail – please join us!

### Executive Members 2020 - 2021

**President** - Carla Olusola    **Vice President** - Garth Derksen    **Secretary** - Rhonda Plett    **Treasurer** – Kari Unger

**Fundraising Coordinator** - Tiffany Peters    **Principal** - Geoff Sutton    **Vice-Principal** - Jenn Kroetsch

## PAC NEWS

**FUNDRAISING** – Our **Bothwell Cheese fundraiser** before Christmas was a huge success, **profiting almost \$2000**. Our Boston Pizza \$50 Gift Card was awarded to Carter Maksymic (Grade 1). Congratulations and thank you to all who participated!!

The **McDonald's & Giant Tiger Gift Cards fundraiser** just before Spring Break was awesome. A huge shout out to all who participated, and we **made a whopping \$4450.00**. The \$50 Giant Tiger Gift Card was awarded to Ronan Dorosz (Mrs. Wick's Grade 1/2 class) and the \$50 McDonald's Gift Card was presented to Connor Plett (Mr. Lovatt's Grade 3 class). Great job boys! Please thank these local businesses when you used your gift cards!



**Minnewasta's 1st ZOOM BINGO** was held on March 25, 2021, we had over 30 players! We hope that everyone 2 enjoyed the evening as it was a chance to celebrate SPRING BREAK with our school community. (Bingo was scheduled because our movie nights are currently canceled). Congratulations to all of our BINGO winners – they received McDonald's gift cards! Mark **Thursday, May 20th** on your calendar for our next Bingo game!

**MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> – STUDENT INVOLVED CONFERENCES** – PAC provided supper to all the teaching staff on the Thursday night.

**I LOVE TO READ MONTH** – PAC sponsored individual prizes to students for I LOVE TO READ month in February ...hope you all filled in your reading bingo cards!

**HOT LUNCH** – PAC has been busy with providing hot lunches to our students at Minnewasta. In February, PAC sponsored a FREE Dairy Queen hot lunch to all students!!! In March, McDonald's Happy Meals were on the menu. Thanks for supporting our hot lunch program and watch for future signups!

**FRIDAY PRIDE WEAR** - Reminder to students and staff to wear your gold t-shirts and school colours on Fridays!

**STAFF SNACKS** – Thank you to all the parents who have signed up for Wednesdays to supply our hard-working staff with snacks!! Much appreciated!

## HELP WANTED

1. **SNACKS** - we are looking for parents to provide snacks (on Wednesdays) for the remainder of the year. Please contact Rhonda Plett at [srplett@mts.net](mailto:srplett@mts.net) for more info.
2. **STORIES** - Do you HAVE an AWESOME message or story about a staff member at Minnewasta that you would like to share? Let Rhonda Plett know [minnewastapac@gmail.com](mailto:minnewastapac@gmail.com) and we may include it in our PAC bulletin.
3. **THANK-YOU** - Please remember to take time to thank your teacher and any staff members (including bus drivers) that you may see in the community for the service they provide every day. Just a quick verbal thank-you, e-mail, or virtual card to show your appreciation. They are working very hard to make our school community a very safe, healthy, and educational place to work and play.
4. **PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**- PAC is looking for a group of eager parents to participate in forming a playground/swing committee. Please contact us if you are interested and would like more information.
5. **SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP SAFETY** - PAC is concerned about the safety of students, parents and staff during school drop off and pick ups. A big thank you to the Morden Police for increasing patrols during these high traffic times. PAC is looking at doing a formal survey of the current drop off and pick up situation and safety issues. There will be an opportunity to assist our team in the information gathering stage of this initiative

**PAC E-MAIL address** - is checked frequently. Please use this address for any inquiries, suggestions, or concerns: [minnewastapac@gmail.com](mailto:minnewastapac@gmail.com)

**DID YOU KNOW...** That Minnewasta has

**40 remarkable staff members + 300 incredible students = 1 AWESOME SCHOOL?**

# Meet your 2020-2021 Executive

## Carla Olusola – President



This year will mark my 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the Minnewasta PAC. My involvement with PAC has given me great insight into the dynamics of Minnewasta and the amazing work that the staff do to educate and support our children. I've enjoyed working with the PAC Executive, the school staff, and the parents and guardians of the Minnewasta students to support various school initiatives over the last 2 years. I look forward to continuing this work and hope that we can continue to assist the school in any way that we can. I know that this year will be a year unlike any other in our children's educational journey & I look forward to the challenges of finding new and innovative ways to support Minnewasta during the 2020-21 school year.

## Garth Derksen – Vice-President



I first joined the Minnewasta Parent Advisory Council in 2018 out of a desire to become more involved in my children's school. I started as a part of the fundraising committee, which seemed like good fit, as I've worked in sales for the past 12 years and genuinely enjoy connecting with people. My wife, Jessica and I have 4 children, Nolan (gr 6), Darci (gr2), and Aria (K), and newborn Gavin. At the end of 2018 I stepped into the role of Vice President, and in 2019, Jessica joined the PAC as the volunteer coordinator. We've really enjoyed serving on the PAC, working with a great group of parents to plan events such as movie nights, hot lunches, and help organize fundraisers, as well as supporting the wonderful Minnewasta staff by providing meals for student conference days and staff appreciation treats! It's a great way to stay connected with the school as well as connect with other families, and to voice opinions on how the PAC can best support students, staff, and parents throughout the year. I look forward to continuing to serve as the Vice President and building those connections.

## Kari Unger – Treasurer

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something."  
Edward Everett.

What a year this has already been! I felt the time was right to try and do something...to try and contribute to the Minnewasta PAC's goal of promoting school spirit and working alongside the principal and teaching staff on school issues. My husband Brian and I live in Morden with our two boys, Zachary (Grade 3) and Declan (Grade 2). Brian keeps very busy working with the family business, Blade O' Grass Lawncare. Alongside being a wife and mom, I work part-time as a Grocery Supervisor at Morden Co-op. In my spare time, I enjoy baking and cake decorating, watching my boys play sports, and painting ceramics/woodcrafts. I look forward to working alongside an awesome committee to support the students and amazing staff of Minnewasta during these challenging times!





I have called Morden “home” my entire life and I am excited to be part of this wonderful Minnewasta community. I have a son, Connor who is currently in grade 3 and a daughter, Erica in grade 9 (who waked the halls of Minnewasta in her elementary days).

I have been involved with the Minnewasta PAC in various capacities on and off for approx. 10 years including Secretary, Staff Appreciation Coordinator, Member at Large, and other volunteering duties. This year on PAC has been different, to say the least, but I am very glad we are together again, and I can’t wait to see what this year will bring!

An African proverb said "It **takes a village to raise** a child" which translates into an entire community of people interacting with children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. As a member of PAC, I feel it has given me the greatest opportunity to interact with the Minnewasta village including the principal, staff, and other parents/caregivers. I think that being a part of the Minnewasta PAC, helps me to better understand how vital parental involvement is and how we can assist our staff, children, and school to succeed. I’m hoping that 2020-2021 will be another awesome year in our Minnewasta village!

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**Tiffany Peters – Fundraising Coordinator**

This is my third year being on PAC.

I have enjoyed being involved in Minnewasta school, getting to know other parents and the incredible staff here.

I have 2 children and they both attend school here. My daughter (Ally) is in grade 4 and my son (Levi) is in kindergarten. I am married to Garnet who is the manager at Accupipe in Winkler. We live in the country just outside of Morden. I work from home as a hairstylist on top of being a mom and wife. I’m involved in various activities and committees at our church.

I look forward to getting to know more of you from our school and community and want to build stronger relationships throughout the year. I support our school and staff and feel they work so hard for our children.



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**Other Honourable PAC Members Include:**

**Jessica Derksen – Volunteer Coordinator**

**Marcy Banman – Hot Lunch Coordinator**

**A HUGE THANK-YOU to ALL THE STAFF, STUDENTS, and PARENTS for supporting each other during this time of uncertainty. Let’s work together to make this a healthy and encouraging year for everyone!**