

Minnewasta PAC Bulletin

Fall 2020 Edition



"Alone we can do
so little; together
we can do so
much."
Helen Keller

Minnewasta Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

The Minnewasta Parent Advisory Council is a parents' link to the school. It is a way to involve parents in school activities, to work alongside the principal on school issues, to promote community involvement and to ask questions regarding school issues.

Our council is an organization of fathers, mothers and teachers designed:

- to stand for progress in the neighbourhood
- to create public opinion necessary for educational progress
- to arouse a community sense of responsibility for its most precious asset -- our children

It provides parents with an opportunity to better understand the purpose and methods of the school and to keep abreast of the advances of modern education. Last but not least, its purpose is educational. The council does not seek to direct the administrative activities in the schools, control their policies or provide a clearinghouse for personal grievances.

- Meetings are usually held in person at the school on the second Tuesday of the Month (currently virtual)
- Everyone is welcome to attend with no obligation to do anything
- 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 2020** will be virtual – a link will be sent out via e-mail – please join us!
December 8th at 7:00 P.M.

Executive Members 2020 - 2021

President - Carla Olusola

Vice President - Garth Derksen

Secretary - Rhonda Plett

Treasurer - Kari Unger

Fundraising Coordinator - Tiffany Peters

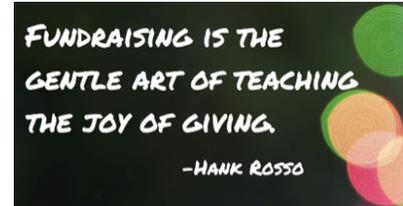
Principal - Geoff Sutton

Vice-Principal - Jenn Kroetsch

SPIRIT WEEK - October 26-30, 2020 - PAC supplied the Minnewasta students with treats for classroom and individual participation!

WESTERN SCHOOL DIVISIONAL SURVEY - All families are encouraged to complete the Divisional Survey sent out via e-mail. This will aid in planning for the schools and your child's education if we are changed to remote learning.

FUNDRAISING - is happening right now. Reminder that all Bothwell Cheese forms are **DUE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17th, 2020**. Details on delivery to come! Indoor and outdoor recess/playground items are earmarked for our fundraising goals. Reminder to all Minnewasta families to help support your PAC with fundraising efforts - a little truly goes a long way.



Nov. 19th & 20th – Student Involved Conferences - please make sure you have signed up virtually to talk to you teacher about all the great things they are doing with your child at school. Please remember to download Microsoft Teams BEFORE Nov.19th. (NO SCHOOL NOVEMBER 20th).

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP FORM – coming soon, please watch for this form and sign-up for jobs including: hot lunch committee, staff appreciation planning committee, general volunteering, picture day, etc.

*There will be **NO homemade food brought into the school for staff appreciation this year**. Please note that alternate plans are being arranged for those special days throughout the year. Please consider volunteering opportunities to help with these other plans - for example purchasing items (pop, coffee, snacks, etc.) and other means to **THANK our STAFF!**

HOT LUNCHESES – postponed until further notice. Typically, hot lunch is provided on the 3rd Monday of each month, with the exception of February and May long weekends, when they will be held the Tuesday following.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – CANCELLED. Due to current restrictions with COVID-19 we will not be hosting Family Movie Night this school year.

PICTURE DAY – postponed until further notice.

FRIDAY PRIDE WEAR - Reminder to students and staff to wear your gold t-shirts! All new students will receive a t-shirt - please see your classroom teacher.

STAFF APPRECIATION – 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 and we may include it in our PAC bulletin.



THANK A TEACHER or STAFF MEMBER – 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.

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

DID YOU KNOW... That the Minnewasta School address is 1 Academy Drive?
Sounds like it is a smart place to be!

Carla Olusola – President



This year will mark my 3rd 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 3 children, Nolan (gr 6), Darci (gr2), and Aria (Kindergarten). 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!

Rhonda Plett – Secretary & Staff Appreciation Coordinator



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!

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.



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!