

	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC Meeting November 20, 2013 Page 1 of 2</p>
---	---

SNAC Member Change: Due to personal reasons, a SNAC parent member had to resign from the committee. An Alternate SNAC parent member was acclaimed to the position, as well as to the position of Secretary of the committee.

SNAC Awareness Campaign—SNAC Chat Newsletter (November 2013): As part of an ongoing effort to increase the visibility of SNAC, so that more parents of children with special needs are aware of the support services that we offer, the November edition of the SNAC Chat Newsletter was finalised. It will be sent to Pearson News, as well as to Administrators for distribution to parents at all schools. [see attached].

Website Administrator’s Report: Activity on the website has continued to increase this school year, as have the number of email messages received. In the past month alone there were 437 hits on the SNAC website. It is believed that the distribution of the IEP Kits in the September helped to generate interest in SNAC. Feedback on the IEP kits continues to be positive.

SNAC Parent Workshop: SNAC will be offering a free seminar, open to all parents of students with special needs, during the month of February, 2014: “**Kids that Jiggle and Wiggle: Strategies for Students with Challenging Behaviours**”. Topics will include understanding gender differences in behaviour and ADHD, as well as tips to promote success. We are asking those interested to preregister via email (snac@lbpearson.qc.ca) and the exact date and time will be confirmed shortly.

Consultation on Enrollment Criteria 2014-2015: SNAC submitted a response suggesting that an additional clause be added to the Question & Answer document of the Policy to address the potential concern that special consideration be given to a student with Special Needs if a school with a Bilingual program has reached capacity, since that program may be more conducive to the student’s success.[attached]

SNAC Funding: SNAC has submitted a letter to Administration requesting an increase in funding for SNAC’s operational budget. The committee is seeking an additional \$800.00 to be added to the current \$1000.00 budget. The funding would be used to cover the cost of parent seminars hosted by SNAC, as well as the cost of a recording secretary and participation in conferences that are of interest to SNAC members.

Discussion Topic—Dealing with Flight Risk Concerns for Students with Special Needs: Due to a recent incident at an elementary school wherein a non-verbal student with Special Needs went missing for a period of time after exiting the school via an Emergency door, SNAC discussed the topic of flight risks and wandering and how our schools may improve preventative measures. It was discussed that this would fall under the mandate of the Facilities and Security Committee. It was suggested that the F&S Committee consider that verification of working alarms on emergency exit doors be incorporated into the checklist for regular school fire drill procedures. SNAC was informed by Administration that the Regional Directors have been alerted to the concern and that verification of alarm doors is taking place at certain schools.

CPC Report: It has been confirmed that the Student Ombudsman has resigned. She will remain in place until the end of this school year, or until such time that a replacement has been hired. Thus, any Requests for Reconsideration that may be in process, or any new requests, should not be affected.

	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC Meeting November 20, 2013 Page 2 of 2</p>
---	---

Council Report: Commissioner Daniel Olivenstein confirmed that 2 commissioners have retired. Discussions have taken place within Council regarding what process will be used to replace them.

Professionals Report: Carrie Gross, LBPSB Special Needs Consultant, informed the group of various training sessions that have taken place this month. Highlights included a presentation on 'Brain Plasticity and Development: Research and Its Application to Teaching and Learning', which was attended by many resource teachers and professionals. A list of 14 workshops will be offered to Integration Aides during the Nov 21 ped day, including 'Assistive Technology, Facilitating Access and Inclusion for our Students', 'Self-Regulation Strategies', 'Assistive Technologies, Practical Tools for Students with ASD', 'The Conflict Resolution Tool Kit', and 'Student Challenges: Helping Students to Problem-Solve in Everyday Situations'.

Workshop Report—Current Trends in Autism: A SNAC parent member attended the conference "Current Trends in Autism" and provided an excellent detailed written report summarizing the discussions, as well as links to reference documents, which may be helpful to parents of students on the ASD Spectrum [see attached]. This report will also be made available on the SNAC website.

Correspondence:

- Our counterparts at the English Montreal School Board are offering a free seminar, open to all parents with Special Needs, on November 28, 2013: "Riding the Waves of Stress When You Have a Child With Special Needs". All are encouraged to attend.
<http://www.emsb.qc.ca/coronation/documents/News%20and%20Events/2013-2014/Workshop%20for%20parents%20of%20students%20with%20special%20needs.pdf>
- Gazette article: "Autism Shouldn't be Jobs Obstacle", which describes a computer software firm is actively searching to hire candidates with Autism:
<http://www2.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/working/story.html?id=17cf441a-e941-4794-8bcc-18179c4e3a9b>

Upcoming SNAC Meetings:

- **January 22, 2014:** will include a special presentation on the LBPSB School Board Budgeting process, with particular emphasis on funding for students with Special Needs.
- **February 19, 2014:** will include a special presentation regarding Assistive Technology (software, hardware, etc.) available to students with Special Needs within LBPSB.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2013 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Hillgartner, Secretary
Sandra Buckingham, Chairperson
Special Needs Advisory Committee 2013-2014