



Welcome to the Bench PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Research shows that if you are involved in your child's education, he/she will be more successful in school ... and being involved with the PAC is a great way to do this.

We have always had a very active, enthusiastic PAC at Bench, which for sure is one of the reasons our school is so great! Each year the PAC gives every classroom \$500 to enhance the learning experience for every student. We pay for field trips, fine arts performances, have recently upgraded our playground and installed a brand new computer lab as well as a Smartboard/projector/Mac computer in every learning room in the school. We organize numerous fun activities like the pumpkin decorating contest, dances etc. which don't raise much money but which the kids LOVE. All of these activities rely solely on the support of parents and guardians participating and volunteering some of their time in order to make them happen. Please take a few minutes to read over the following pages & become involved with your PAC in any way you can.

Our **first PAC meeting** is scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 28th 2016 at 6:30 pm in the multi purpose room

As with all PAC meetings, we will be playing a kid's movie in the classroom directly across from the Multipurpose Room with juice and popcorn provided so feel free to bring your kids with you. And to thank and encourage you to participate, all parents who attend this and every PAC meeting this year will receive a half price hot lunch coupon *just for being there*. At our meetings you will have the opportunity to meet other parents, join in and participate in issues that affect the school and hear the monthly Principal's report. And remember,

ALL Bench parents are members of the PAC - We simply do not exist without you

Thank you ~ From your current Bench PAC Chair Taryn Leduc

** This meeting will also contain our AGM which is the annual general meeting at which time we elect our executive board. We are also amending our bylaw to make the September meeting the AGM (as opposed to June as it currently is.) This is to make sure all the new parents joining us are able to take part in as many ways as possible.**

Staying informed .. like us on Facebook and you'll always know what's happening

Bench PAC on-going fundraisers

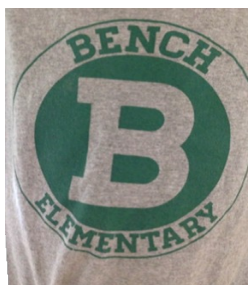
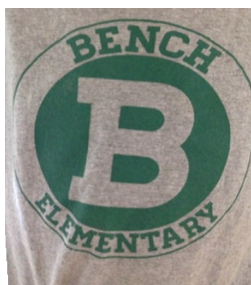
For those of you new to the school and to refresh the memories of others, listed below are the ongoing programs that we participate in to increase our annual fundraising revenue. If you are aware of any other programs that could benefit our school, we are always open to new ideas. Collection boxes for all of the below items are clearly marked and are located just outside the school office doors.

Country Grocer receipts

Whenever you (or other family members, friends etc.) shop at Country Grocer in Cobble Hill, make sure to keep your receipts. These receipts are tallied up (*thank you Pam Kendall*) and submitted to Country Grocer who then provides the school with 1% back in Gift Cards to use in their store. Last year well over \$2,000.00 was received. This money is used to purchase supplies for hot lunches, Fun Fair, emergency kit supplies etc. **To make Pam's laborious task somewhat easier, kindly fold receipts neatly and do not submit receipts that are more than 10 months old.**

Bench logo T-shirts

Available from the office now in all sizes **for only \$7 each**. Don't delay – get yours today! And FYI, we are planning on introducing new logo wear items such as sweat pants and hoodies later on in the year as well.



Hot lunch

Tricia & Cam Ferguson run our hot lunch program. Once a month you will receive an order form for either pizza, quesadillas, wraps, salads, Chinese food, perogies or one of the numerous and delicious hot (& cold) choices offered. All lunches conform to the BC Healthy Schools guidelines and allergies and other food issues are accommodated whenever possible. A hot lunch schedule for the year will be provided to you shortly.

Popcorn sales

On **Friday, September 30th** ALL Bench students will be provided with a bag of **FREE** 'Welcome back to School' popcorn courtesy of the PAC. Following this, freshly popped popcorn will be offered to students on a regular basis at a cost of \$0.75 per bag. A prepay envelope with the schedule of popcorn days for the year is attached for your convenience. Please be sure to use your child's **NEW** teacher's name/Div # (for 2016-2017 school year) on all the forms you return.

Class Representatives:

We would love to have Class Rep for every class at Bench. Duties are important but minimal & will consist mostly of keeping your class informed. Please consider volunteering to be your class rep by filling in the below:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Division/Class to represent: _____ Tel: _____