

November, 2017

## **JOIN ARTS!!**

In a time when equity and inclusion are at the centre of our educational strategy, we need to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to engage in activities that foster student success. Recognizing artistic exploration as a part of mandated curriculum and as an essential tool in support of student well-being, a Ward 20 Arts Education Work Group was formed with committed parents, teachers, arts advocates and myself. In June 2017, the Work Group submitted an 'Arts Intersection' proposal to the PRO Regional Grant to explain the value of arts programs in the schools as they relate to student well-being and school success, and that arts education should and must be one of the key educational priorities.

The 'Arts Intersection' proposal in the amount of \$7,500 was approved last month. The Work Group members has decided a \$500 grant is available per school for up to ten Ward 20 schools in the new year to organize parent outreach arts projects. Because of the limited scope of the funding, only junior schools are invited to join at this point. The remaining money will fund a final inter-school event and to provide an arts resource facilitator to schools as needed.

Potential school applicants can simply fill out the attached **Expression of Interest Form** by January 15, 2018 and the Work Group team will do the rest. School grant winners will be notified by January 22, 2018.

**The arts projects have to empathize positive impacts on students' feelings of well-being through artistic endeavours with their peers and parents.** The seed money can be used for any part of the program or event and chosen projects will be featured in a larger event ward-wide to be held in late May.

Interested principals, teachers and parents are all encouraged to partner with neighbouring schools and resource artists are available to assist. Please let us know of your ideas and we will be happy to make those connections with you. Please contact us anytime if you have any suggestions and/or questions.

It's indeed exciting! Let's work together with our students and parents in arts!

Sincerely,

Trustee Manna Wong

PIAC and Work Group Rep Christopher Levien