



Parents-Secours Pointe-Claire Block Parents Bi-annual Newsletter

Fall edition 2016

Greetings!

Twice a year we will be sending out a newsletter to update all of you wonderful volunteers about what the committee has been up to, future events, financials and any other news. Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter.



Block Parent celebrates 1 year in Pointe-Claire



On **Saturday, June 4th, 2016** the Pointe-Claire chapter of Block Parents officially celebrated its 1st year anniversary. A general meeting was held at the Cedar Park Heights Chalet at **10:00am** followed by some family fun.

After reviewing the year, the executive committee for 2016-2017 was voted in unanimously with Tara Stainforth as president, Christine Latreille as vice-president, Lea Capuano as secretary, Mark Walford as treasurer and Barbara Parker as community outreach liaison.



The day was great fun with a face painter, inflatable castles and crafts. We were also joined by the Pointe-Claire police and fire departments. A day to put on your calendars for next year!

Block Parent members

Our dream is to see at least one Block Parent per street in Pointe-Claire. Since we began a year and a half ago we have had quite a bit of interest and can currently count on 56 households with a sign in their window and several others pending.

BECOME A BLOCK PARENT TODAY



We encourage all our Block Parents to talk about the program with their neighbours, friends and family and, hopefully, pass on the sign-up info!

Community Events

Parent Appreciation Day: On June 11th we participated in AMCAL's Parent Appreciation Day. We greeted many local families and shared information about the program with people from our community as well as neighbouring communities.

Clearpoint Family BBQ: June was a busy month with an invitation from Clearpoint Home & School to participate at the Family Day BBQ celebration. Lea Capuano offered information on the Committee, recruited 7 new interests, but most of all, applied over (what felt like) 100 tattoos to the students and friends in attendance. After being rescheduled twice, the rain held out and it was a fun time!

Canada Day: We were happy to once again be invited to walk in the Canada Day Parade and had 20 participants ready to march. Unfortunately, we were rained out again this year but we will certainly be doing it next year. Keep your eyes open for the call for volunteers in the spring!



Halloween Event: Block Parent Pointe-Claire was invited to participate in Pointe-Claire's annual Halloween party at Parc Arthur Séguin on October 29st. We greeted many parents and their little princesses, ghosts, and pirates, handing out glow sticks and trick-or-treating safety tips.

There was one lucky winner for our raffle this year, winning a basket of Beanie Boos, books and other goodies.

With about half a dozen new households interested, we counted the day as a success.



Sparks: In November we were invited to speak to the group of Pointe-Claire Dorval Sparks about our program. We did a fun activity where the girls drew strangers to show that it could be anyone, did some skits about a variety of situations and what to do, as well as practiced

some of our personal information (address, telephone number, parents' names). It was a great experience and opportunity.

Should your child belong to a group that you think would welcome us as guest speakers, please let us know or share our information with them.



Upcoming Events

City celebrations: Keep an eye open for our booth at various city events and please point any interested parties our way to get more information about the Block Parents' initiative. If you are interested in helping at a booth by giving out pamphlets and informing potential households how the program works, please let us know as we are always looking for some extra help!

Finances

We ended our first fiscal year with some money in the bank and have continued to maintain a steady sum due to our bake sale and raffles, which have helped covered expenditures thus far this year.

We foresee some moneys being spent on office supplies, promotional items (signs, hats, etc.), as well as photocopies and brochures.

Community Outreach

School community: Our target clientele are school-aged children and therefore creating relationships with local schools is vital to the success of Block Parents. We have been positively received by many of the cities elementary schools and have given them information on the Block Parent program. We are working on creating an ongoing partnership with the Home and School Associations in order to be able to get our message to their clientele. Look for us at some of the future school events and invite some of your friends to consider being a block parent. Community safety for our children and seniors is very important to all of us.

Elderly community: Pointe-Claire has the largest senior population on the island of Montreal and we are working on ongoing initiatives to reach this community. Early in the New Year we will be contacting all of the senior residences in the hopes to be able to give their residents the information regarding the Block Parent program and explain how it could be of assistance to them.

If you are interested in helping with Community Outreach for Block Parents please let us know, we'd love to get you involved!

Fundraising

This year we once again we able to count on our community to help us out by offering goods to be sold at our 1-year anniversary party. We were able to raise enough funds to cover our expenses and put a little extra aside for next year's event.

FundScrip gift cards: We are pleased to announce the launch of our first ongoing fundraiser - **FundScrip gift cards!** FundScrip offers you the convenience and ease of directly purchasing gift cards for any occasion (Christmas/holiday gifts, birthdays/anniversaries, Valentines, graduation, thank yous, Mothers/Fathers Day, etc.), and even better, for your own personal shopping use!

At no additional cost to you, FundScrip transforms your everyday spending into fundraising dollars. That means no out-of-pocket donations, no door-to-door sales and no sympathy purchases. You just pay for your everyday expenses with gift cards bought from FundScrip and we earn money towards our campaign's target! We are raising funds in order to broaden our local awareness and increase our membership in every area of Pointe-Claire.

You shall receive another email shortly with all the information about the fundraiser.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support of this worthy cause!

Friendly Reminders

Please remove window signs when you are not available! We like to keep ours in a window we can see from the car to help us remember!

If you plan to move or you have any new additions to your family, please let us know as soon as possible so we can make the necessary updates.

Is your sign damaged or broken? Not a problem, we will come by and exchange it for a new one. Just give us a call (number is on the back of the sign) or send an email.

We also remind all members to contact us should you offer help to someone, as we keep statistics.

Thank you for reading and stay tuned for more announcements over the coming months. You can also stay up-to-date by visiting our web site <http://parentssecours-pc.ca/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/blockparentpointeclaire>