

# Ecole Our Lady of the Rosary Parent School Council 2020-2021

## Year in Review

Ecole Our Lady of the Rosary School Council is a group of dedicated parents/guardians, school trustee, teachers and non-teaching staff who share the goal of encouraging active participation of parents to improve student achievement and increased accountability of the education system.

The School Council duties include maintaining a budget, fundraising, hot lunch, planning school wide events and special projects.

The 2020-2021 school year was a busy and different school year for Council with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. This caused us to adjust budgets more frequently throughout the year along with making adjustments and cancellations to our fundraising and special event plans.

Despite these obstacles, some of our key successes for the year have been:

### Fundraising

- Spring/Fall DFS Fundraiser: Through the support of our school community, these two fundraisers raised over \$6,700.
- Art Auction: 21 classrooms were able to participate in this year's art auction. Thank you to the teachers who worked with their students to make such beautiful masterpieces for us to display on Facebook and auction off!

### Hosting Guest Speakers/Events

- DANCEPL3Y: In April, Parent School Council hosted DANCEPL3Y, in a virtual format for all of our students. DANCEPL3Y promotes positive mental health through the Three Rules of PL3Y: Be Positive, Be Fun, Be Yourself. They bring a fun and engaging way for students to discover the physical, social and mental benefits of dance.
- Field Trips In lieu of in person field trips this year, we were happy to support classrooms in taking a number of virtual field trips. Students virtually visited or learned about the Royal Tyrrell Museum, Mineral Rock, boat's and buoyancy and the culture and dancing of India through the virtual studies we supported.

### Capital Spending

- Stage: We were able to purchase a stage to be used for our annual Christmas Avent concert. This will save the school a rental fee in future years. In 2019-2020 we purchased a set of stairs for the stage.
- Chromebooks: School Council purchased ten new Chromebooks that were required with the addition of grade four students to our school this year. Chromebooks were used to support students in:
  - Daily reading
  - Assist students that need more time/technology to complete assignments
  - Research/challenging students
  - Support interests
  - Support challenging the students with Math.

One teacher said: "We also used them to support our students who struggle with writing. They were able to speak or type their work instead. These were great to supplement our tech needs when we didn't have our assigned Chromebook time!"

- **Chromebook cart**: We were able to purchase an additional Chromebook cart this year.
- **Phonological Awareness Supplies**: School council was able to support the purchase of these supplies. Some of the feedback we received from teachers was:

"Let me start off by saying, THANK YOU, for this program..." "This program has allowed our students to take a different approach to learn how to read and write. They are no longer memorizing and guessing. They are decoding and applying their knowledge. This program has really brought forth the importance of slowing things down and breaking things apart. I have noticed that my students truly know why and when letters/letter clusters make certain sounds."

"The program also provides an opportunity for ALL students to learn at THEIR level. There are different levels of the student books and reading passages. This ensures that students are able to read with confidence at their level. If a student is still needing some additional teaching on a given skill the program is designed to accommodate for that."

- **Recess Equipment**: We were able to assist with the purchasing of scoops for students to use in the sand during recess.

## **Other Activities**

- **Crosswalk Safety**: Concerns were brought forward to the committee about the safety of one of our crosswalks. We were able to support the school in writing a letter to the Town of Sylvan Lake and as a result we recently received an upgrade to our crosswalk. The new crosswalk includes a flashing beacon crosswalk light along with changes to the curb to allow students to have increased visibility to traffic.
- **Hot lunch**: Due to COVID 19 restrictions, our hot lunch program was unable to run for most of the year but we were able to offer two lunches late in the school year following enhanced safety protocols.
- **Teacher/Administrative Professional Appreciation**: School Council provided all teachers and administrative professionals in our school with a small gift during teacher appreciation week or administrative professional day to show thanks for their important work throughout the school year.
- **Train of Hope**: Nine families were supported by donations of food and/or gifts with additional food being donated to the Sylvan Lake Food Bank.
- **Grade Four Farewell**: Each grade four student was provided a t-shirt to be signed by their peers as a souvenir of their time at Ecole Our Lady of the Rosary School.
- **Student Fun Day** Parent council is supporting this event through the purchasing of freezies for all students.

Parent School Council would like to acknowledge all of the hard work by the dedicated volunteers, parents and school staff that contributed to the successful 2020-2021 school year. Parent School Council success is contingent on the involvement of parents.

**Please join us for our first council meeting of the 2021-2022 school year on September 14th @ 9:00am**

If you are interested in joining our team of parent volunteers next fall, stop by our table at 'meet the teacher' day in September or email the committee chair, Megan, at [eolrschoolcouncilchair@gmail.com](mailto:eolrschoolcouncilchair@gmail.com) .