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## **What: Maple Ridge Elementary School Council Annual Report for 2017/18**

**Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Prepared by: Cynthia M. Allen, Maple Ridge ES Council Chair**

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2017-18 School Council Annual Report summarizing Council activities, events and decisions. This is a required report.

There are three reports required to officially conclude the 2017-18 academic year.

- School Council Annual Report – Due October 30, 2018
- Year-end reporting of School Generated Funds – Due September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (Appendix 1)
- 2017-2018 Parents Reaching Out Grand Funding and Report Back–Due July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

In the course of school council activities throughout the year, we endeavour to fulfill the overall objectives of school councils as mandated by the Ministry and the Board such as improving student achievement and enhancing the accountability of the education system by providing advice to the Principal, Board and Ministry.

### **School Council Members:**

At the beginning of the first meeting (September 19th, 2017), an election was held in accordance with the Maple Ridge School Council constitution. The outcome of this election was as follows:

Parents:

- Chair: Cynthia Allen
- Secretary: Christi Barry
- Treasurer: Wil Dykstra, CGA
- Fundraising Coordinator: Michelle Snook van Duyvenbode
- Communications Coordinator: Rosita McLaughlin & Courtney Marshall
- Community Representative: Barbara MacIntyre
- Pizza Lunch Coordinators: Robin Januska, Jennifer Tracey
- Members at Large: Elitza Palazov, Crystall Matheson, Tom West, Shealee Free, Tamara Johnson, Kristi LeBlanc, Micheline Lalonde, Sarah Ford, Brenda Beaudoin, Heather Peppy, Wendy Mak, Kerry Harris

School Administration/Teaching/Non-Teaching Staff:

- Principal: Marianne Harvey
- Vice-Principal: Natalie Makara(Sept-Jan), Marc Laliberté (Jan-June)
- Teaching Representative: vacant (rotating)
- Non-Teaching Representative: vacant

## School Council Meeting Dates:

Maple Ridge ES Council convened the following dates during the 2017/18 academic year:

- September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 –Council cancelled
- January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- June 19<sup>th</sup> 2018

School community survey results a few years ago, said that Tuesday evenings were most convenient for parents. Traditionally Council has been held on Tuesday evenings.

## Fundraising Initiatives & Grants

Fundraising is one of the core functions of this Maple Ridge ES Council. Maple Ridge maintained loyalty programs with Orleans Home Hardware, Mabel's Labels and Boston Pizza. Council tried a few different fundraising initiatives as compared to recent years. Thank you to all the volunteers that assisted in the success of the many fundraising activities by collecting forms and money, selling food, delivering items to the classrooms and organizing tasks.

**Pizza Lunch:** was supplied by River Pizza and offered weekly. There were 36 pizza days throughout the school year. This is an extremely important fundraiser for Council. Orders were again submitted on line using HotLunches.net. There were a few minor difficulties to overcome at first but overall the electronic system is effective. This lunch program is largely dependent on our volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this fundraiser so successful, allowing Council to offer this service to our school community.

**The Lunch Lady:** was offered twice a week at Tuesday and Thursday second nutritional breaks. There were 888 lunch items served. Maple Ridge will continue with The Lunch Lady, twice weekly next year.



**Purdys Chocolate Campaign:** New this year, the fall fundraising campaign was the sale of Purdys Chocolate. It was a smashing success with over \$2000 in profits! Parents loved the product therefore Council decided to run the campaign again next year. Thank you to everyone that participated.



**Family Movie Night** – Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, Maple Ridge families gathered in the gym to watch a family movie, Despicable Me 3 and Paddington 2, respectively. Parent Council had not run a family movie night in a couple of years therefore we felt we could re-visit this fundraiser. The children were a bit rambunctious but enjoyed the evenings.



There were several glitches with the technology for the April movie night therefore parents have asked that some of the funds from future fundraisers be allotted for the purchase of new audiovisual equipment. The evenings were successful with \$1800 in profits.

**Family Fun Day May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018** - School Council concluded their yearly activities with their annual Family Fun evening. The evening was initially planned for June 7 however with the provincial election on that same day and Maple Ridge being a polling station, Council quickly had to change dates. We are grateful to Circus Delights for being able to accommodate the change since bookings for the inflatable castles and games are done a year in advance. There was the threat of rain, therefore a lot of the Fun Day activities were set up inside with only a few outside. The weather held out and the event was a great success. Council will use this year's set up for future festivities because it worked out so well. Fun was had by all – students, parents, school staff and Council members.

Included in the Fun Day activities is a draw for prizes. This event is highly dependent on sponsorship from local families and businesses. Thank you to the: National Arts Centre, Cosmic Adventures, Yalla Yalla, Escape Manor, Adams Orthodontics, Ski Vorlage, City of Ottawa, Boston Pizza, River Pizza, Sobeys, Ottawa Champions Baseball, Peek-A-Boo Bean - Vicky Bisson, Orleans Bowling, Menchies, Les Sommets water slides (Saint Sauveur), National Gallery of Canada, Kids Kingdom Orleans, Fun Haven and Escape Spa. The Maple Ridge school community greatly appreciates the generosity of the local businesses who donate to our event!

This evening would not be possible without parents, students and school staff that volunteered their time at the various stations - ticket booth, games, food tables or by supplying cakes for the Cake Walk. Thank you ever so much. Council also would like to thank the students that volunteered. Their help is invaluable.

### **Grants**

Maple Ridge Council has been fortunate throughout the years to obtain funding from various granting sources and this year was no exception. We received a \$500 Parent Involvement Committee grant. Additionally, Council applied for and was awarded a PRO (Parent Reaching Out) grant through the Ministry of Education. These funds paid for three (3) parent/child evening workshops in addition to five (5) daytime workshops with Poppy DesClouds, PhD(c), a mental performance consultant. The workshops focussed on emotional resilience and mental skills training to relieve anxiety.

On behalf of the Maple Ridge school community, Council would like to thank these granting agencies for their generosity.

### **School Council purchases & school support this year**

- **Technology:** With the success of the various fundraising initiatives, Council was able to financially support the purchase of 20 chromebooks for the school. The chromebooks are not designated to a single class and can be signed out by the teachers so that the students can work on projects.
- **Library** – Books for the Forest of Reading Club – popular with the students. This is a great program to encourage children to read.

- **Activities–**

- Mathletes - two days (March 21-22/2018 ) where the gym was transformed into Math stations, the students were divided into teams, spanned several grade levels, good fun.
  - Blues in the Schools - a two week program where the students at all levels, participated in this music program. At the end, there was a school assembly to showcase their work.
  - Momentum Moves - Dance program - a week long series of workshops that are linked to the Ontario Curriculum. Grades 1-8 participated
- Purchase of science equipment for the older grades, STEM supplies and gym equipment for the kindergarten classes, communication bags, ribbons for sporting events

### School Council Activities –

1. Communication & School presence - Council had an information table at the Meet the Teachers evening in September, as well as at November Parent-Teacher interviews. Again this year, the school administration sent electronic communications to the Maple Ridge community on Council's behalf. Parents/guardians were always aware of upcoming events, fundraisers and Council meetings. We prepared two (2) editions of the "Council Corner" newsletter (December and June). These kept parents up to date on our activities as well as the on-going fundraising initiatives. All this was in addition to the nine (9) monthly Council meetings where extensive minutes were maintained and available to the school community electronically.
2. School Council participated in the Kindergarten Information Night on May 3<sup>rd</sup>/2018 to inform parents about School Council and encourage participation in the coming year. A five minute presentation was made to the parents. Council would like to thank the school administration for allowing us to participate in their Information Night.
3. New this year, a Yearbook Committee was initiated by a parent volunteer who recruited a group of grade 8 students. The group collected photos throughout the school year along with art work. The April 26<sup>th</sup> movie night was organized by the Yearbook Committee. The result of all this hard work was a 60 page publication highlighting the senior year for the three (3) classes of grade 8 students finishing at Maple Ridge before moving on to new adventures. Council also financially supported the grade 8 leaving celebrations. Thank you to the parent volunteer for leading this wonderful project.
4. Hatch Coding program – Again this year, council organized an after-school coding program, twice weekly. Interested parents/guardians could register their student(s). There was a cost to participate. <https://hatchcoding.com/ca>



5. Volunteers continued to work on the 'Butterfly' Garden and surrounding area. This spring we had several gardening days at the school, including the front and back gardens along with biweekly watering sessions throughout the hot summer. Several different families raised caterpillars into butterflies and released them into the garden. This is an on-going project with great educational potential. Pictured is the garden as of August 2018.



6. A few Maple Ridge parents attended the School Council Training Day on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Sir Robert Borden High School. The day was sponsored by OCASC and the OCDSB. There were presentations about Growth Mindset - Seeing Possibilities in People, Supporting your Child in Math, Reconciliation & You, Understanding & Navigating the Process for Children with Special Need, School Council Insurance & Risk Management and School Council Finances just to name a few.
7. On-going initiatives – Council continues to maintain a 'Student Alumni List' where on occasion, high school students may be asked if they would like to volunteer to help with future school projects. Volunteering at Maple Ridge is a great way for students to acquire the mandatory volunteer hours required to graduate high school.

### **Challenges:**

Council continues to struggle with parent involvement however we are not facing this situation alone. Many school Councils throughout OCDSB have expressed the same concerns. Maple Ridge is fortunate to have a group of very dedicated parents and community members. The electronic communications (email messaging and website updates) have helped to reach out to parents. We will continue to improve upon our communication strategies.

Council was not a member of OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils) this year. No one volunteered to be the OCASC representative to attend the meetings. This is unfortunate as OCASC meetings allow Maple Ridge to stay connected with schools within the OCDSB as well as exchange ideas with fellow parents. Updates could be obtained through the OCASC website.

Council finds it difficult to get parents to actively participate in the school grounds greening project. Although parents have expressed their appreciation of Council's efforts to create a more educationally stimulating outdoor environment, it has been difficult to get volunteers to help with the project. Parents have limited time to spare with so many extracurricular activities and heavy workloads. We are hopeful that parents and students become more enthusiastic now because the project is coming together and results can be seen.

In previous years, Council had provided child minding services during Council meetings so that parents could more easily attend. With the establishment of the Student Alumni List, this initiative can be re-visited.

**Recognition:**

Thank you to school administrators and staff members who attended our Council meetings. The information and guidance you provide to Council is invaluable.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the various fundraising initiatives as well as organizing the various school activities.

Thank you to the dedicated pizza lunch volunteers. This is such an important fundraiser and service to the students. Council could not offer weekly pizza days without the commitment from parent volunteers.

Appreciation is extended to the office administrators and the custodial staff at Maple Ridge.

As Council Chair, I have found this year to be very rewarding. I would like to thank the entire Maple Ridge community for an exceptional year.

*Cynthia Allen*

Cynthia Allen  
Maple Ridge ES Council Chair 2017/18

Appendix 1. School Council Year-end Financial Reporting 2017/18

School Name	Maple Ridge Elementary School	
School Council Chair	Cynthia Allen	
Opening balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on July 1, 2017		\$13,026
The amount raised by school council during the year July 1, 2017 and June 30 2018		\$36,842
The amount spent by school council during the year July 1 , 2017 and June 30, 2018		\$38,774
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on June 30, 2018		\$11,094