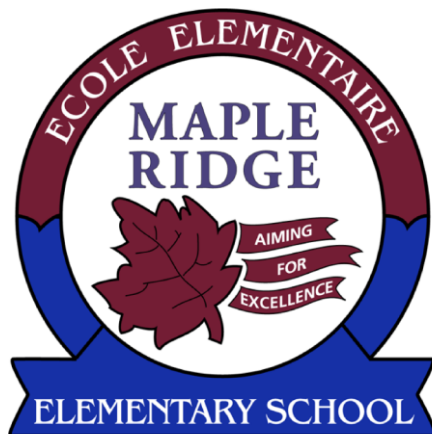


Maple Ridge Elementary School Council Annual Report for 2020/21



June 2021

Prepared by:

Cynthia M. Allen

Maple Ridge ES Council Chair



Council would like to acknowledge that Maple Ridge is on unceded Algonquin Territory, and thank the Algonquin Nation for hosting us on their land.

This year was another dynamic year for the School Council despite the global pandemic. We were able to continue a few of our traditional school community and fundraising events in an effort to support the school and foster a positive experience for everyone. It gives me great pleasure to present the 2020/21 School Council Annual Report summarizing Council activities, events and decisions. This is a required report.

There are two reports required to officially conclude the 2020/21 academic year.

- School Council Annual Report – Due October 29, 2021
- Year-end reporting of School Generated Funds – Submitted September 19/2021 (Appendix 1)

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 (October 13th, 2020), 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 (acclaimed)
- Secretary: Pamela Dossett-Boucher (OCV parent/only nomination for position)
- Treasurer: Jennifer Tracey (acclaimed)
- Fundraising officer: Wendy Mak
- Communications officer: Rosita McLaughlin
- Community Representative: Barbara MacIntyre
- Members at Large: Amanda Hope, Rhiana Lorimer, Kate Woods, Elitza Palazov, Jennifer Malek, Mahmoud Obeid, Crystall Matheson, Brenda Beaudoin, Michelle Snook, Lisa Briscoe

School Administration/Teaching/Non-Teaching Staff:

- Principal: Mireille Filion
- Vice-Principal: Robert Levesque
- Teaching Representative: Mara Belitzky
- Non-Teaching Representative: Tanya Dumas

School Council Meeting Dates:

Maple Ridge ES Council convened the following dates during the 2020/21 academic year:

- October 13th, 2020
- November 10th, 2020
- December 8th, 2020
- January 12th, 2021
- February 9th, 2021
- March 9th, 2021
- ~~April 13th, 2021~~ Cancelled due to shift in spring break dates, decision at provincial level
- May 11th, 2021
- June 16th, 2021

General Council meetings were not held in September and April. Due to the global Covid pandemic the start date of the 2020/21 academic year was delayed precluding a September meeting. An April meeting was initially planned, however the province of Ontario delayed the spring break to that week in April 2021 overlapping with the meeting date.

Council invited Keith Penny, the school trustee to attend the December 2020 meeting to provide updates from the OCDSB.

Fundraising Initiatives & Grants

Fundraising is one of the core functions of this Maple Ridge ES Council. 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.

Council fundraising activities included:

- Papa Jack Popcorn
- Purdys Chocolate Campaign (April)
- On-going fundraising collaborations with: Home Hardware & Mabel's Labels

Papa Jacks Popcorn – Papa Jack popcorn has always been a school favorite however there were no in-schools permitted this year. Council set up a loyalty program with Papa Jacks popcorn where 20% of online sales were donated back to the school. The fundraiser was relatively no work once the Maple Ridge sales code was obtained. We advertised to family and friends. Profits exceeded \$250.



Purdys Chocolate Campaign – This year we didn't have the fall fundraising campaign but deferred to spring. Although successful with profits exceeding \$700, the choice of products was limited. Moneys raised went to support the school improvement plan and student achievement. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Grants

Maple Ridge Council has been fortunate throughout the years to obtain funding from various granting sources and this year was no different. We received two grants.

1. **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** \$500
2. **Parent Reaching-Out (PRO)** \$650 – On May 5th, Council hosted a 90 minute virtual workshop, **Children's Anxiety in Uncertain Times**. Betsy Mann, a certified family educator from Family Services Ottawa provided tools that children can learn to use when they are feeling overwhelmed by worry as well as strategies for parents to better support and help manage children's stress load.

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

As a Council we voted to support these very important purchases & activities:

- **Back to School** – The return to in-person learning required the implementation of several safety measures. There was to be no sharing between students, therefore 400 bins were purchased to hold student supplies and necessary manipulatives for math. Several items were purchased for the kinder yard such as sand toys, scoops, buckets and sleds to reduce sharing. The schoolyard was divided into areas, designated by class, requiring the purchase of yard paint and orange safety cones. A safe and healthy environment is critical and council readily voted to support the necessary back-to-school measures.



- **Library** – Books for the Forest of Reading Club – very popular with the students. This is a great program to encourage children to read. Thanks to our dedicated librarian, Mrs. Dunn, the book club was again a successful program.



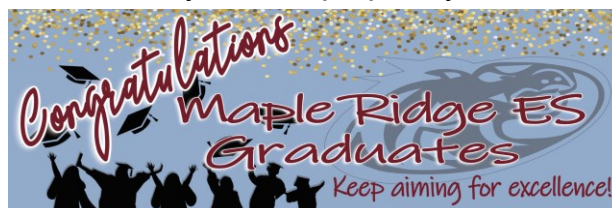
Forest of Reading®

by the Ontario Library Association

- **School Leaving Grade 8 Students:**
Council purchased personalized pens and socks for each of the grade 8 students in addition to providing each student (in-person and virtual) with a Grade 8 yearbook that the students worked on this year.



- **Congratulations Banner** – council purchased a 10 foot x 2 foot banner congratulating the graduates. The year was purposely excluded so that it can be used yearly.



School Council Activities – In addition to fundraising, Council activities included:

1. Communications & School presence - Council had a “Welcome Back” letter at the start of the school year in addition to communications about the on-going fundraising initiatives. This was on top of the 8 monthly Council meetings where extensive minutes were captured. All minutes and documents are uploaded in a timely manner to the Council tab of the school website
2. Parent Council members worked with grade 8 students to establish a Yearbook Committee again this year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no volunteers were permitted in the school, therefore the group met virtually on a regular basis. The OCDSB printing services were hired to print the books. All grade 8 students, both in school and those that attended virtual learning were provided a yearbook at no charge to the students. Thank you to the parent volunteers that provided oversight of this important activity.
3. This year MRES Council was an active member of OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils). OCASC meetings were conducted virtually this year. An OCASC update is made available to Maple Ridge parents on a monthly basis.
4. 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 as required by the Ministry of Education to graduate high school.

Challenges:

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

Council finds it difficult to get parents to actively participate in the school grounds greening project. Parents have expressed their appreciation of Council’s efforts to create a more educationally stimulating outdoor environment although it has been difficult to get volunteers to help with the project. We are hopeful that given the current global situation and the benefits of social distancing outdoors, that staff, parents and students will become more enthusiastic.

Recognition:

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

Appreciation is extended to the office staff at Maple Ridge. Council is indebted to Tanya Dumas, the office administrator.

Thank you to Mrs. Dunn for organizing the Forest of Reading program. This initiative is always welcome at Maple Ridge. We would also like to thank Mrs. Dunn for operating the library this year so that students could still enjoy and benefit from the wonderful book selection that is available. ‘Mrs.

Dunn's Reading Nook' on the school website was widely popular. Mrs. Dunn also ran two virtual Book Fairs this year. We are lucky to have such a dedicated librarian.

We appreciate all that the custodial staff do to maintain a healthy school environment that is conducive to learning. This year was particularly demanding. Their efforts helped to alleviate everyone's anxiety around returning to in-person learning.

Thank you to all those that attended the monthly Council meetings in addition to participating in the discussions via email. Maple Ridge Council members worked very well together this year and our students benefited from our efforts.

Thank you to a former Maple Ridge Council member, Debbie McIntyre for the lovely photo, 'Sunset at Petrie Island' that is being displayed on the front page of this report.

The 2020-21 school year was like none other in history. Although there have been challenges, our students have learned so much more than we could have imagined. We have seen how resilient our school community is. Thank you so much to the Maple Ridge staff for all their efforts. It was not easy teaching in-person with the necessary safety precautions. Pivoting to remote learning without notice was likewise difficult. Our students are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of educators at Maple Ridge. I would like to thank the entire Maple Ridge community for all their efforts in keeping everyone safe and healthy while providing a quality education.

Have a wonderful summer!

Stay safe.

Cynthia Allen

Cynthia M. Allen, Ph.D.
Maple Ridge ES Council Chair 2020/21

Appendix 1. School Council Year-end Financial Reporting 2020/21

Submitted September 19/2021 to the OCDSB by Jennifer Tracey, Council Treasurer

School Name	Maple Ridge Elementary School
School Council Chair School Council Treasurer	Cynthia Allen Jennifer Tracey
Opening balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on August 1, 2020	10,979\$
The amount raised by school council during the year August 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021	2,298\$
The amount spent by school council during the year August 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021	3,889\$
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand July 31, 2021	9,388\$
Portion of above amount raised which was collected through the school's School Cash Online program	\$0