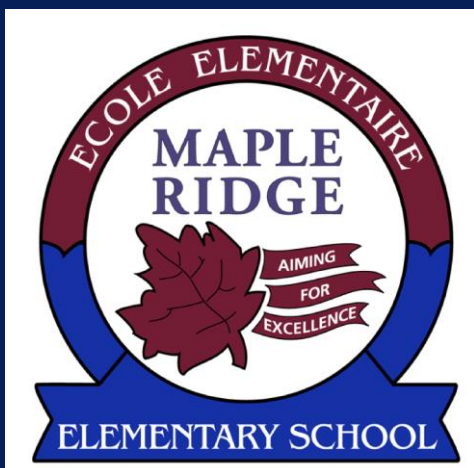


**Maple Ridge
Elementary School
Council
Annual Report
2022-2023**

OCTOBER 31/2023

**Prepared by:
Cynthia M. Allen
MRES 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 a dynamic year for the School Council as Council resumed 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 2022/23 School Council Annual Report summarizing Council activities, events and decisions. This is a required report.

There are two reports required to officially conclude the 2022/23 academic year.

- School Council Annual Report – Due October 31, 2023
- Year-end reporting of School Generated Funds – Submitted September 16/2023 (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 (September 20th, 2022), an election was held in accordance with the Maple Ridge School Council constitution. The outcome of this election was as follows:

Parents: All executive positions filled by acclamation.

- Chair: Cynthia Allen
- Secretary: Amanda Hope
- Treasurer: Jennifer Tracey
- Fundraising officer: Wendy Mak
- Communications officer: Pamela Dossett-Boucher
- Community Representative: Barbara MacIntyre
- Members at Large: Rhinna Hess, Brenda Beaudoin, Crystall Matheson, Lisa Briscoe, Sebastienne Salvant, Kelly De Angelis, Tin Tang
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School Administration/Teaching/Non-Teaching Staff:

- Principal: Mireille Filion
- Vice-Principal: Lysanne Darmody
- Teaching Representative: vacant
- Non-Teaching Representative: vacant

School Council Meeting Dates:

Maple Ridge ES Council convened the following dates during the 2022/23 academic year:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • September 20 th , 2022 | • February 7 th , 2023 |
| • October 4 th , 2022 | • March 7 th , 2023 |
| • November 1 st , 2022 | • April 4 th , 2023 |
| • December 6 th , 2022 | • May 2 nd , 2023 |
| • January 10 th , 2023 | • June 20 th , 2023 |

Fundraising Initiatives

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:

- Weekly pizza lunches (every Wednesday, November - June)
- Purdys Chocolate Campaign (November - December)
- Family Fun Day (Thursday, May 25th, 2023)
- On-going loyalty programs with: Home Hardware & Mabel's Labels



Purdys Chocolate Campaign – This year we brought back the holiday campaign, exceeding \$1100 in revenue. Moneys raised went to support the school improvement plan and student achievement. Thank you to everyone that participated.

Council was excited to be able to offer weekly **Pizza Days** this year after a 2 year break. Ordering was through the School Cash Online platform and worked extremely well. Pizza supplied by River Pizza was offered every Wednesday from November to June. The number of slices ordered was the highest they have been in over 10 years demonstrating how popular pizza days are with the students & parents/guardians. This is an extremely important fundraiser for Council with a profit of over \$13,000. This program is largely dependent on both adult and student volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this fundraiser so successful, allowing Council to offer this service to our school community.



Family Fun Day – After a four year break, the Council concluded their fundraising activities with their Family Fun evening on Thursday, May 25th, 5:30-7:30pm with the highest attendance seen in the past 15 years. This event is a highlight for the students and enjoyed by the community. Fun was had by all – students, parents, school staff and Council members. Families enjoyed the inflatables and playing games! The silent auction and basket draw were a big hit. This event is highly dependent on sponsorship from local businesses and beyond. Council was overwhelmed by their generosity. The Real Canadian Superstore and Old Dutch Foods donated the concessions that were sold at FFD. We cannot thank them enough for their continued support. The Maple Ridge school community greatly appreciates their kindness. 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 Carousel. Thank you ever so much. Council also would like to thank the numerous students that volunteered. Their help was



invaluable. Pre-sale of tickets using School Cash Online was extremely popular as was ticket sales at the event. After all expenses were paid, there was a profit of over \$6,500.

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 three grants.

1. **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** \$500
2. **Parent Reaching-Out (PRO)** (\$700) Funding from the Ministry of Education enabled parents and students to enjoy an evening workshop entitled *Benefits of Edible Gardens: A Hands-On Planting Activity*. This workshop, facilitated by Growing Up Organic, focused on raising awareness of local food production and building skills around planting, growing, harvesting, budgeting, and distribution in a sustainable way. Students loved planting the seeds and going home with the starter trays!
3. **Proud To Be Me** (\$85) - financially supported a presentation from *Mark Hatfield* for students in grades 3-8. Mark highlighted perseverance, proper goal setting, and confidence.

On behalf of the Maple Ridge school community, Council would like to thank these granting agencies for their generosity. These resources enhance our students' education and better support student achievement and overall well-being.

School Council Purchases & School Support this year

- **Library** – Books for the Forest of Reading Club – very popular with the students. This is a great program to encourage children to read. The program consists of both French and English books written by first time Canadian authors. The books are striated by age into 4 reading levels. The students sign up for the appropriate level. As they read the books or have the books read to them, they keep track on a wall chart. They read a minimum of five books to be eligible to vote at the end of the year for their favorite. The program is Canada wide. The students become very invested in the book club and so proud when their choice wins the top award. Thanks to our dedicated librarian, Mrs. Dunn, the book club was again a successful program.
- **Classroom resources/purchases**
 - Magnifying glasses for science, cookie sheets & magnets for literacy practice, and butterflies/caterpillars for kinders
 - Kinder STEM items
 - 8 musical instruments, additional mouth pieces and repair costs to existing instruments
- **School Wide Activity**
 - Blues in the Schools week long workshop
 - Momentum Moves dance program
 - The Rhythm Room Drumming workshop



- Primary Bubble Day activities
 - End of Year Team building activities for junior students
 - Tea lights/table clothes for talent evening called the Hot Chocolate House
- **School Leaving Grade 8 students** – Council provided funds to recognize the accomplishments of the grade 8 students that have spent up to 10 years at Maple Ridge. A yearbook was prepared by a committee that was overseen by the grade 8 teachers. The OCDSB printing services were hired to print the books. Council provided the funds so that all grade 8 students could receive a yearbook at no charge to the students. In addition Council contributed funds to defray the cost of the post-ceremony celebration for the students.

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

1. Communications & School presence - The extensive minutes from the 10 monthly Council meetings were captured and uploaded in a timely manner to the Council tab of the school website. Council had an information table at the 'Meet-the-Teacher' evening on September 29th, 2022. Again this year, the school administration sent electronic communications to the Maple Ridge community on Council's behalf. Parents and guardians were always aware of upcoming events, fundraisers and Council meetings through a Facebook group that was maintained by a Maple Ridge parent. Council activities were summarized in the June edition of the 'Council Corner' newsletter.
2. This year the MRES Council voted to not renew their OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils) membership. MRES Council had been an OCASC member for many years however no parent representative was available to attend the OCASC monthly meeting. OCASC meeting minutes and the OCASC Facebook thread were reviewed and pertinent information was shared at the MRES Council meetings when appropriate.
4. Gardening Workshop – With the support of PRO grant funding, on May 30th, 2022, Council hosted an evening workshop entitled *Benefits of Edible Gardens: A Hands-On Planting Activity*. This workshop, included a presentation by Growing Up Organic followed by a hands-on activity. Students were provided with planting starter kits and seeds. Together with their parent/guardian they enjoyed getting their hands dirty. Throughout the summer and autumn months, participants were encouraged to share photos of their seedlings and plants on the Maple Ridge Facebook group page.
3. 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

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.

There were three in-person council meetings, one of which was a hybrid and seven virtual meetings using Google Meets. Whether it be an in-person or a virtual meeting, it may be a challenge for some parents/guardians to participate therefore moving forward Council is hopeful to adopt a hybrid model that will allow for even greater attendance next year.

Recognition

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. A special '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. We are indebted to you for your continued support of Council activities. We especially thank Tanya Dumas for her invaluable help with setting up and monitoring our pizza lunches using the School Cash Online platform.

Thank you to the amazing custodial staff. We appreciate all you do to maintain a healthy school environment that is conducive to learning.

After 13 years, our Maple Ridge Crossing Guard, Freida Fong retired in June. The entire Maple Ridge community thanks her for her dedication to keeping our students safe.

Maple Ridge also said good-bye to Lysanne Darmody, our vice principal. Thank you Lysanne for all the support you provided us. Enjoy your next school.

Thank you so much to the Maple Ridge staff for all their efforts. 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.

Cynthia Allen

Cynthia M. Allen, Ph.D.
Maple Ridge ES Council Chair 2022/23

Appendix 1. School Council Year-end Financial Reporting 2022/23

Submitted September 16/2023 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, 2021	\$8,148.00
The amount raised by school council during the year August 1, 2021 and July 31, 2022	\$22,141.00
The amount spent by school council during the year August 1, 2021 and July 31, 2022	\$12,444.00
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand July 31, 2022	\$17,845.00