

Co-chair report 2016/2017 Summary

Runnymede PS Council wrapped up another great school year with a new Principal in Administration. It was a year of learning for the Council, as we fell short of our target in our October Direct Donation Campaign, and were forced to scale back our initial budget. With parents perhaps feeling a bit of donor fatigue after giving so generously to the Centennial Legacy Playground, and new parents perhaps not clearly understanding the breadth of enrichment programs that Council provides at Runnymede, we decided to take the remainder of the school year to re-focus, strategize, and showcase all that Council offers.

We also recognized that parent engagement was another key area to improve upon. Our Communications Committee were instrumental in delivering concise and easy-to-understand messaging to our parent community. Our newsletters evolved to be mobile-friendly. Parent Reps assisted in getting Council messaging directly into classrooms. As a result, our Spirit Committee saw increased participation at various community-building events, resulting in more fundraised dollars. These increases helped us cover our budget, and eventually led us to a position of having excess dollars at the end of the school year. The school divisions were asked to prepare a wish list of needs. After careful consideration, Council unanimously agreed to fund a drama Arts prop, called a Periaktoi, partially fund a reading program 'Empower', and the balance of funds were to be given over for improving technology at Runnymede PS.

We realized that new families to Runnymede were our critical area of focus. Council participated in Administration's Spring Kinder Welcome, as well as committing to host a Kinder Welcome event in September once new families were settled.

The STEM & Yard Committees continued to deliver excellent enrichment programs that Runnymede PS students have come to expect and appreciate. Despite the school being a construction zone for most of the school year, students were able to enjoy the new playground's Phase One.

The Arts Committee, with a new Cochair and a new vision, launched an Arts event, the Art Walk, which was very well-attended and received.

Council introduced a Hot Lunch program to the school, in response to parents' requests. It was decided that this program's main focus would be to offer a service to the parent community, rather than being a fundraiser for the school.

Our Spirit & Fundraising leads collaborated with EXEC and Administration/Staff to create a new strategy for our main Fundraiser; the Direct Donation Campaign. This campaign would launch the campaign early in September, instead of October, in order to streamline the budget discussions in October. The new vision included a dedicated focus on technology, in addition to fundraising for existing enrichment programs.

In terms of school safety, Council enlisted the help of Councillor Doucette to assess and jointly make recommendations to improve road safety on the streets surrounding Runnymede PS. The changes included a second Crossing Guard at the north crosswalk, and additional signage to be implemented in the coming year or so. Council also facilitated a lice check for all students in Grades JK-6 after the Winter Break.

Runnymede PS was fortunate to receive another PRO Grant from the Ministry of Education for \$1,000 which enabled us to host a Social Media Speaker from Boston, US. Students and Parents were able to attend and hear from Juma Innis, of the The Message Bridge.

We recognize that our volunteer parents are our biggest asset and their tireless dedication has helped us all achieve so much together. The following Committee members will be resigning from their positions, and Council offers a special thanks for their contributions.

Thank You to:

Alice Bell – Arts Cochair

Dale Cadeau – Council Chair

Maureen Dugan – Communications Cochair

Sarah Frame – Centennial Cochair

Marissa Hollis – Secretary

Sharon Kelly – Arts Cochair

Angela McDonald – Spirit Cochair

Jen McLean – Ward 7 Representative

Erin Meana –Centennial Cochair

Dale Cadeau
09/28/2017