

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AT RUNNYMEDE?

RUNNYMEDE PARENT COUNCIL

Parents, administration and teachers work together on Parent Council to promote participation, co-operation, understanding and effective communication within the school community. Council provides a forum for you to hear information directly from school administration and to discuss and recommend action on key educational issues. These three groups work together to determine how money raised by Council can be spent in a way that benefits the largest number of students over the long term.

Here are a few examples of how Parent Council has spent fundraising money in recent years:

- The Centennial Playground project
- Financial support for the music, drama, arts, and extra-curricular & athletics programs
- Funding for the outdoor classroom, Green Teacher, yard days, eco-school status and Peacekeeper program
- Money for each Runnymede teacher to spend in their classroom
- Major technology purchases for all grade levels
- Funding for Art and STEM enrichment programs

For more information visit the Council website: runnymedecouncil.org.

PARENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The committees of Runnymede Parent Council work to benefit the school in very specific ways. You don't have to attend Council meetings to be involved in the committees.

ARTS ENRICHMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Runnymede Parent Council Arts Committee is dedicated to providing curricular enrichment via the arts. Our students have honed their artistic skills in drawing, sketching, painting, dance, photography and multimedia. We look forward to a vibrant arts experience for 2018/19 that includes :

- Primary Arts Enrichment FDK-Grade 3
- Supporting Runnymede's vibrant drama, strings and band programs

You do not have to be an artist to join this committee.

Chairs: Ivana Barbieri

Contact: i_barbieri@hotmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee works to improve communication between the school and Runnymede families.

- Check out our **website** – it has regular updates and hosts a school calendar of events!
- **Read our Emails** - we work closely with Administration to provide timely news from both the school and Parent Council.

Parents with experience in communications or ideas on how to improve communication are encouraged to join. Many of our volunteer tasks can be done from home, on your own time.

Chairs: Ingrid Larsen & Danielle DeLaurier

Contact: **runnymedeps@gmail.com**

SPIRIT COMMITTEE

This group of volunteers is committed to creating a sense of community and raising the funds to supplement the School's annual budget for needed programs as well as deliver Council Committee enrichment programs.

The Spirit Committee:

- Organizes fun community-based events: Pizza Lunches for JK to Grade 8 students, Movie Night, Parent Pub Night, Kindergarten Welcome, Nuit Orange, Halloween Costume Sale, Bake Sales, QSP Magazine Drive, Runnymede T-shirt Sales and the Annual Staff Appreciation Lunch.

For a fun way to get involved at the school contact us! We will be having our first meeting in October- all are welcome!!

Co-chairs: Allison Madigan & Erin Meana

Contact: **Runnymedespiritcommittee@gmail.com**

STEM COMMITTEE

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Committee aims to support programs that ignite and sustain our students' love of math and science. We have:

- Worked with administration to support new STEM opportunities, materials and technology within the school
- Organized the "Math Amazing Race" for Grade 1 to 4 students
- Led "Angry Birds" math workshops with kindergarten classes

We welcome all new members. No STEM expertise required - just enthusiasm for STEM and an interest in the enrichment of this area of the curriculum!

Co-chairs: Tasha Balla-Boudreau & Dave Begleiter

Contact: **runnymedestemcommittee@gmail.com**

YARD COMMITTEE

You can support this committee by helping out with projects around the schoolyard, donating old garden tools or by attending our 2 Saturday Yard Days – fabulous family-friendly events. (Fall Yard Day is Saturday, September 22nd 2018, 9:00am-12:00pm)

The Yard Committee also continues to:

- Purchase and distribute new recess equipment
- Offer the Green Teacher program that provides curriculum-based learning in our “outdoor classroom” space - the Hillside Garden
- Help maintain everything from the Hillside Garden, stone amphitheatre and peace circle

Co-Chairs: Sarah Frame & Helen Williams

Contact: runnymedeyard@gmail.com

WARD 7 REPRESENTATIVES

Our Trustee Robin Pilkey holds regular Ward 7 Meetings to provide information about issues facing schools in our Ward and the TDSB more broadly. Reps from each school within Ward 7 attend these meetings and communicate back to their respective school communities. The parent-led campaign called **Fix Our Schools**, which is advocating to address the disrepair in our children's schools emerged from engaged Ward 7 parents, so this Ward is filled with active parents who want to make a difference! We would be pleased to have additional parents join us.

Ward 7 Rep: Kathleen Hyatt

Contact: kathleenjhyatt@gmail.com

PARENT REPS (one per class)

Parent Reps help Council liaise with classrooms and promote Council activities. Reps also assist with the creation of class lists where needed so that Council can stay in touch. We ask all Parent Reps to become Council members and attend meetings when possible. Please consider volunteering to be a Parent Rep this year!

Parent Rep Coordinator: Anh Truong

Contact: atruong0@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER AT THE SCHOOL

There are also ways to get involved at the school, separate from Council and its committees. The school adheres to the **TDSB policy** regarding Volunteer Police checks. Please speak with Administration if you have not yet had a Volunteer police reference check completed.

If you are interested in helping with any of the following programs, please contact the School Office at (416) 393-9055.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES

There are several school committees, led by teachers or a member of administration, which require parent representatives, including the Staffing Committee, Equity Committee, and Safe Schools Committee.

IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASS

Perhaps the most direct way to impact your child's school experience is to get involved in their classroom. Each teacher will communicate directly with their classes parent community about specific needs and philosophies but here are some ways you may get involved in your child's class:

- Reading - Parents may be asked to read with emerging readers in small groups or one-on-one.
- Scholastic Book Orders - Teachers often appreciate a parent taking care of processing Scholastic order forms and delivering books once received.
- Borrow-a-Book - Teachers may appreciate parents who can come in regularly to facilitate a weekly reading book exchange.
- School Trips - Teachers often need parent volunteers to attend school trips.
- Sharing Expertise - Teachers appreciate offers to share special skills or talents that tie into the classroom curriculum or special class activities (for example, musical concerts).