



Dundana Elementary School

23 DUNDANA AVENUE
HAMILTON, ON L9H 4E5
TEL: 905.628.2622
FAX: 905.628.2699

EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana
PRINCIPAL: Mr. Steven Johnston

Greetings Dundana Parents and Caregivers,

The 2015-16 school year draws to a close and it is time to review the work of the school council and consider the year to come. At its heart, the school council is parents working to improve the quality of school life. We do this through funding activities that enhance curriculum, organizing events that support community, and assisting parents to engage with the child(ren)'s education. Specifically, this year the Dundana School Council in cooperation with other parent volunteers have:

- Funded transport for class excursions
- Funded enhancements to track and field, Terry Fox Run, grade five graduation and volunteer celebrations
- Purchased additional ukuleles
- Supplied agendas to all children
- Brought in performers to enhance arts appreciation (Dufflebag Theatre) and First Nations education (Tribal Vision Dance)
- Arranged two parent education nights on Encouraging Leadership in Children and How Best to Help Your Child's Education
- Worked on school board and education-related community boards
- Coordinated successful book sales
- Worked with Canadian Parents for French to host Frenchapalooza
- Organized the annual Valentine's Dance-athon, Holiday Luncheon, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon and what for many is the highlight of the school calendar, the Family Movie Night.

Through these various events and the activities of other dedicated parent volunteers, a net total of \$9 838.17 was raised, slightly exceeding the projected \$9.73k.

The experience for council members has been rewarding and we feel that it has been a successful year. We thank all parents and children for their support and enthusiasm and hope that we have effectively represented your desires to improve school life.

The 2016-17 school year presents a particular set of challenges for the incoming school council. There will be a new school principal, now that we must say farewell to Steve Johnston, and a new school administrator, following the retirement of Pat Gallo. Both have been instrumental in the council achieving its goals, offering both advice and support in great measure. I am certain their replacements will establish a strong working relationship with the council and parent community, but Mr Johnston and Mrs Gallo will be missed by all. There will also be turnover on the council itself, as a long-time, active member leaves for a year abroad, and I stand down as my son moves on to Sir William Osler.

Another potentially significant change is the new school board regulation on future fund raising. From this September, school councils will be required to determine all of their fundraising methods and targets at the beginning of the school year, and outline these to the community. Limitations ultimately breed creativity, and feel certain that those of you who have the time to offer your service will find solutions that are effective. I wish the new council well with these challenges.

The 2016-17 council will need your support. This may take the form of volunteering for an event, supporting various initiatives financially or becoming a member of the council to help steer its activities and raise concerns at our meetings. With the changes mentioned above, new members will be needed. Consider whether next school year you could fulfill one of these roles:

- Chair
- Coordinator for one of our key events (Valentine's Dance, Movie Night)
- Volunteer coordinator
- Pizza Day coordinator

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Dundana School Council for the last four years. I will miss the school dearly. We are very fortunate to have the community and staff that we do and working with them has been rewarding. Even more, it has been an honour to get to spend time with the amazing children we have here.

Mathew Gibson, chair
On behalf of the Dundana School Council