



Westwood
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Westwood Elementary School Council

Annual Report

2015-2016 School Year

Westwood School Council Annual Report for the 2015-2016 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community:

The Westwood School Council had a very rewarding year. The school council held 5 meetings on September 30th, November 4th, January 13th, March 23rd, and May 18th and worked on various issues during the year including Math Night, fundraising, Multicultural Day, the School Transportation Plan, and a new Council Code of Ethics, By-laws and Constitution, just to name a few. These meetings were open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council(s) of the actions taken in response to the recommendations. Accordingly, the advice that the school council provided to the principal and to the school board in 2015-2016, as well as the responses from the principal and school board on how this advice was taken into account in decision making can be found within the council meeting minutes which are publicly available on the [Westwood School web site](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westwood/school-council/) at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westwood/school-council/>.

Additional achievements of the school council in 2015/2016 included the following:

- Bringing the Good Food Box program to Westwood School
- Surveyed parents to learn more about the communities communication channel preferences
- Executive members attended HWDSB School Council Training Workshop
- Organized and facilitated the Coffee/Tea fundraiser to purchase outdoor play equipment and musical supplies for students
- Organized and facilitated a successful Math & Nutrition nights for families

- Organized and facilitated a successful Multicultural Day for students
- Advocated for a pathway between Westwood School and Westmount Recreation Center

Fundraising activities were also conducted, and the proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. The fundraising and financial activities related to the school council's administrative activities are identified in the attached financial summary entitled "Westwood School - Finances 2015-2016 Final Report". Minutes of meetings held and financial records are available for public inspection on the [Westwood School web site](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westwood/school-council/) at <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westwood/school-council/>.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council this year. Special thanks are due to the following members of the 2015/2016 school council for going above and beyond their call of duty to serve our students and community:

- Michelle Rodney Bartalos - Principal
- Karen Welch - Teacher
- Melanie Bainbridge - Parent & Treasurer
- Michelle Letourneau - Parent
- Jen Smith-Balkissoon - Parent & Nutrition Program Coordinator
- Jessica Elcomb – Parent & Volunteer

Finally, the first council meeting of the 2016-2017 school year will be held on Wednesday September 28th, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the school staff room. In that meeting, an election will be held to vote in council members for the 2016-2017 year. Please come out and participate!

Issues that we foresee as being important matters for the consideration of the new school council following the September 2016-2017 elections include a continued dialogue with HWDSB regarding the school transportation plan, fundraising for school equipment and supplies, and increasing experiential learning opportunities for students.

Sincerely yours,

Shelly Frith and Brian Gould
Council Co-Chairs

June 1, 2016