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# Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

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## Cootes Paradise Home and School

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We are looking forward to another exciting term at Cootes Paradise. We have lots of great events and activities planned for the kids and their families - in this newsletter you'll see some of what's in the works! Come talk to us at the Parent Meeting or at the Meet the Teacher Night, connect on Facebook, find and sign up for volunteer opportunities on <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe> or email Erin at [erin.lepischak@gmail.com](mailto:erin.lepischak@gmail.com) or Heather at [heharvey@hotmail.com](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com) to learn more about how you can get involved!

We hope you have an awesome year!

Erin Lepischak and Heather Harvey  
Co-chairs, Cootes Paradise Home and School

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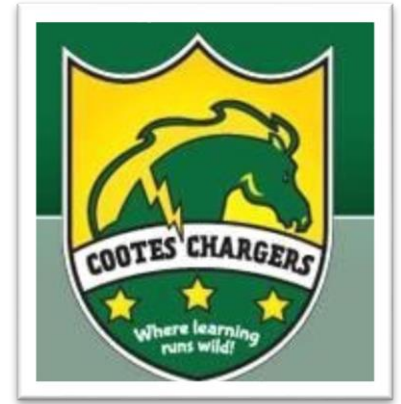
## Home and School Volunteers make a difference!

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Every day at Cootes Paradise you will see our amazing volunteers and your fundraising dollars hard at work. Have you watched your children playing in our Outdoor Dream playground? Have they told you how much fun they have playing ball with the playground equipment during Daily Physical Activity (DPA)? Perhaps you had a chance to view our Blank Canvas Gallery where the Arts Committee displays student talent. Many students are excited to tell you about the pumpkins they've carved each year for our Pumpkin Hike. Maybe they've mentioned the fun they have had at fall or spring lunch clubs, dance-a-thon, how much they enjoy pizza and pita lunch days, or the nutritious snack program. Our goal is to help provide programs that positively impact our students and staff.

We hope you will support these incredible programs by joining the Home and School Association this year. Our first meeting is September 27 at 7 pm in the school library. All are welcome. There are many volunteer opportunities within the school. Could you spare time to hand out pizza or pita lunches? Could you help run our magazine fundraiser? Perhaps you could volunteer to sell glow sticks at our Pumpkin hike? We will send out information about where help is needed in several ways: volunteer opportunities will be posted as they arise at <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe>, follow us on facebook, and subscribe to the Cootes Paradise Elementary School Website.

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Follow us on Facebook and Subscribe to the school website to receive school information - <http://hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/> Volunteer opportunities will be posted as they arise at <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe>

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## Upcoming Dates

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**September 21**  
Outdoor Movie Night - 7:30 pm

**September 21**  
Pita and Pizza forms due

**September 22**  
PA day

**September 27**  
Parent meeting - 7 pm in the school library

**October 5**  
Meet the staff night

**October 6**  
Pita/Pizza Lunches Begin

**October 10**  
Lunch clubs begin

**October 27**  
After school pumpkin carve and Night Hike

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## Event Information

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### Outdoor Movie Night - 7:30 Thursday, September 21

Bring your lawn chair to the Churchill Park Clubhouse to enjoy popcorn, treats and a movie with the school community. Please sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe> or email Erin at [erin.lepischak@gmail.com](mailto:erin.lepischak@gmail.com). Gates will open at 7 pm. Suggested donation \$20/family.

### Parent Meeting - September 27, 7 pm

Join us at our first meeting of the year in the school library - School Council & Home and School association. Information about school events, school council elections, and volunteer information.

### Meet the Staff - October 5

We'll be holding a cupcake sale, as well as our annual Membership Drive. You're more than welcome to talk to us about any of our programs and events, and to learn more about volunteering!

### Pizza and Pita lunches begin - Friday, October 6

Be sure to send in your forms before Thursday, September 21.

### After school Pumpkin Carve - Friday, October 27

Join us after school to carve the pumpkins for the night hike - the kids design 'em, we carve 'em! If you'd like more information or to offer your knife skills, please sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe> - or email Heather at [heharvey@hotmail.com](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com)

### Night Hike! Friday, October 27, 6-8 pm.

The woods will be lined with jack-o-lanterns glowing in the dark - come join the Night Hike through the trails, then enjoy kids' activities at the Churchill Park Clubhouse. Suggested donation \$20/family. Volunteers are needed for the Hike - please consider signing up to volunteer <https://tinyurl.com/ycae6nwe> - or email Heather at [heharvey@hotmail.com](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com)

### Lunch Clubs

Lunch Clubs start up again after Thanksgiving!

These are activity clubs run by parents or staff once a week during the 20 minute recess part of a nutrition break. Students have enjoyed an impressive variety of Lunch Clubs over the years - science, theatre, art, crafts, knitting, cooking, floorball, basketball, language classes... you name it and some Cootes Paradise parent has done it. If you have an idea, we'd love to help you make it happen. If you have some time, we can give ideas and materials - many lunch clubs (like the always popular Lego club) just need a parent to supervise and help out!

If you are interested in running a lunch club please email Erin at [erin.lepischak@gmail.com](mailto:erin.lepischak@gmail.com). These clubs are lots of fun for the kids and really rewarding for the parents who run them - and it's only one short lunch period a week for six weeks!



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## Arts Council

The Cootes Paradise Arts Council is a wonderful committee that provides art-centered programming and events for the kids throughout the school year. For example, see above a photo of "The Blank Canvas" Gallery (aka the wall of art fun!) that the Arts Council coordinates. If you'd like to help, or if you'd like more information, send Marleen Van den Broek an email, [leenbroek@gmail.com](mailto:leenbroek@gmail.com)

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## Nutritious Snack Program

The Nutritious Snack Program distributes healthy snacks on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Please send in your Main Street West Fortinos receipts! Fortinos donates 1% of every dollar spent at their store towards our Healthy Snack Program!