



South Meadow Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal: Mrs. J. Harvey
Vice-Principal: Ms. N. Assadian

ANNUAL REPORT South Meadow Elementary School June 30th, 2025

As we conclude another successful school year, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and active involvement. Your dedication has been instrumental in fostering a vibrant and nurturing environment for our students.

I would like to thank our School Council members this year for their efforts and dedication. This year members of School Council included Cheryl Martinez (Chair), Andrea Smith (Vice Chair), Natalija, Njegovan (Treasurer), Suzana Mijatovic Bacigalupo (Secretary), Diana Miskovic (voting member), Antonia Grmusa (voting member), Janella Bellio (Voting member) and Juliana Mrkobrada (voting member).

Throughout the year, we have achieved numerous milestones and embarked on exciting initiatives, all made possible by your contributions and enthusiasm. From enriching educational programs to community-building events, your participation has been invaluable. This Spring, our Council ran a Parent Café during our school Open House. As families circulated at the Café, indulging in some local samosas, kids also had their faces painted and participated in some student run activities. We also had a special guest food truck from Raw Roots serving up smoothies (that we are also considering selling as a fundraiser next year). In addition to the Cafe, Council also helps out with our Scholastic Book fair. A percentage of our sales is used to purchase books for our school library. This year alone, we purchased over \$1000 worth of books for our library from Scholastic. Yearly, our Council applies for what's called the ProGrant where we receive a grant to increase parent/guardian engagement. We are so fortunate to have Andrea lead this as she is an official Event Planner! Andrea and Council organized "A Simple Social" for our community to get to know each other, learn about our school and Council and to share their voices.

Our Council also took on a few fundraising initiatives to help subsidize the Wizard of Oz school play, class trips, end of year school Fun Days, and Grade 8 Commencement with Dielman's Fundraising and Parent Café proceeds. Members of Council also helped with our Subway day fundraising, raising even more money to subsidize class trips. Our pizza fundraising helped to purchase iPads and laptops this year, enabling grade 5 and up to be 1:1 technology. Council finished off the school year with our annual Walk and Wheels lead by Cheryl in her red tutu! This is a whole school event to promote active transport to school rather than driving and the kids love it!

Our Bioswale finally came to life this Spring with the combined efforts of School Council, past chair Nicole Burton, facilities and many community partners. One of our parent volunteers, Lyndsay



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Wilkerson, who works with the Bruce Trail Conservancy as a Restoration Project Specialist, volunteered her expertise and has been a leader on this project, including teaching our school population how to plant, the biological importance of the Niagara Escarpment and the significance of the types of plants we are using. The students had so much fun digging and planting along with empowering a sense of pride for our school and environmental stewardship. The younger grades partnered up with the older students to plant their assigned plants and then marked them with popsicle sticks to have the chance to watch them grow. About ¼ of the plants are coming from rescued sites and the rest have been purchased using funds raised by School Council over the past couple of years. All the plants that are being used will re-seed themselves to fill out as time goes on, eventually outcompeting the grass and weeds in the lower part of the Bioswale. This project will continue into the fall with the goal of beautifying our front property, creating a new learning space, attracting pollinators and preventing erosion. Great efforts by all for such a great cause. If you are interested in volunteering your time or resources, next fall, feel free to contact school Council at southmeadowSC@hwdsb.on.ca

We are pleased to report that our School Council meetings have been a cornerstone of our collaborative efforts. These meetings have provided a platform for sharing ideas, discussing important matters, and planning for the future. Your insights and perspectives have greatly influenced our decisions and helped shape the direction of our school.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we encourage you to continue your active involvement. Your presence at our School Council meetings is crucial, and we warmly invite you to join us in these gatherings. Together, we can continue to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children. Our first School Council meeting of 2025-26 will take place on September 25th at 6pm in our library. During this meeting, we will hold elections for our new Council members. Details will be emailed out early September. We hope you consider joining School Council!

Thank you once again for your support and commitment. We wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Sincerely,

J. Harvey
Principal