

## Subject Line:

🌟 Look What We Built Together, Spring Valley! + What's Next 🌟

## Header:

**Investing in Our Kids, Strengthening Our School: How Spring Valley Families Made a Difference in 2024–2025**

*See how your time, support, and voice helped shape an unforgettable year at Spring Valley including how much we raised, how the funds were invested — and what we can achieve next.*

## We Started With a Vision — And You Showed Up

From our first meeting on October 3, the 2024/2025 School Council set out to create a more connected, responsive, and vibrant school community. The results speak for themselves — and they belong to all of us.

Led by a dedicated team including:

**Chair:** Tina Verbinnen

📝 **Co-Secretaries:** Leslie Montreuil & Kate Babetin

💰 **Treasurer:** Adam Kappheim

...Plus our 7 other dedicated members at large, working alongside Principal Barb McVittie, interim principals Mrs. Vanderlip, Mrs. Rizzo and Mr. Cook, Teacher Rep Jason Mason, and HWDSB Trustee Amanda Fehrman.

Six council meetings were held

💻 Virtual access added via MS Teams

🔊 Increased school council updates on the school website

## What We Raised — Together

Through bake sales, pizza days, and community-driven events like our Spring BBQ and Big Yellow Bag fundraiser, we raised over **\$41,280** to directly support the experience of Spring Valley students — now and in the years to come.

🌟 Fundraisers included:

- Pizza, Subway, Popcorn & TCBY Days
- Krispy Kreme & Dough Raiser
- Bake Sale
- Big Yellow Bag Garden Fundraiser
- Spring BBQ & Picnic

## We Invested in Spring Valley Students – Now and for the Future

Here's what your support made possible this year:

### ✓ Technology for Classrooms

- 6 Laptops
- 24 iPads + 10 additional iPad cases to engage younger grades in digital learning

### ✓ Athletics & Outdoor Improvements

- Volleyball referee stand, long jump pit
- Team jerseys for Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Cross Country
- Benches & Accessible Zen Den
- Spring Valley branded event tents for events

### ✓ Play & Learning Enhancements

- Kindergarten playhouse and yard upgrades (construction coming soon!)
- Audio/visual equipment for the stage

### ✓ Celebrating Milestones

- Grade 8 graduation support (signs, awards, banquet)

### We Listened & Responded

Following our survey of 105 families, we learned that parents care most about:

1. School safety
2. Bullying prevention
3. Quality of education
4. Online safety
5. Student mental health

### ☞ And we took action:

- Secured a **\$900 Parents Reaching Out Grant**
- Hosted two expert-led sessions:
  - 📖 *Anxiety and Your Child* (May 8) with Vince Martorelli
  - 📱 *Social Media & Online Safety* (June 23) with Paul Davis

### Building Connection Beyond the Classroom

Throughout the year, your Parent Council tackled big topics like school safety and inclusivity, bike thefts, online wellbeing, enrollment, curriculum updates, EQAO and school-led initiatives like the creation of the innovation den and advancing the robotics club, and more.

### We Need You Next Year

This year, we saw some of the strongest parent engagement yet — whether you helped at the BBQ, read our updates, joined a meeting, or donated your time, *thank you*.

👉 **Next year, we hope you'll join us again — even if it's just once.**

- Attend our first meeting September 25, 2025 to help shape priorities (stay tuned for more information mid-September)
- Volunteer at a fundraiser or event
- Share your skills or connections
- Be part of a subcommittee (even from home!)

Every hand helps!

### **From All of Us — Thank You**

To every teacher, every parent, every student, and every volunteer: *thank you*. We know how busy life is — and how much is asked of you.

When you take time to connect with the school, whether for five minutes or five hours, it creates a ripple effect. It shows our children that their learning, safety, and joy matter — and that they are part of a caring, committed community.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for showing up. ❤️

—Spring Valley School Council