

FOREST HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents and School Community,

The Forest Hill Public School Council welcomes you back for a new school year. This Annual Report outlines the activities of last year's Council. All meetings are open and parents are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings.

The 2014-15 FHPS Council was comprised of 29 members, two administrative staff (Principal Deb Russell and Vice-Principal Mary Katherine Murphy) and teacher representatives (Rob Norris, Lori Stevenson, Kim Seeger). Long time member Mary Jane Ulens assumed the role of Chair of Council, and for the 5th consecutive year, the Secretary position was filled by Patti Joslin. Debra Kapy was appointed Volunteer Coordinator by Deb Russell.

The Fundraising Committee, which meets separate from Council was Chaired by Andrea Armstrong in 2014-15. The committee, comprised of 8 members, meets to review all potential fundraising opportunities and evaluate the success of same, post campaign. Minutes of these meeting are posted on the school website as well as attached to the Council Minutes.

Council and Fundraising meetings are open to all, and parents are invited and encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings, as members, or on an informal basis. Council meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and Fundraising meetings usually are scheduled for the last Monday of the month. This allows the fundraising committee to be able to provide their progress report/update at the council meeting.

All School Councils in Simcoe County have an official SCDSB email addresses. Forest Hill's is councilchairfor@scdsb.on.ca. It is to be used for council correspondence and as a point of contact for our parent community. This email will remain constant for future councils and will be transferred to the new Chairs via SCDSB assigned passwords each year.

The minutes and agendas from the School Council meetings are published on the school website, posted inside the school lobby as well as filed in the Council Minute Book which is stored in the office and available to all parents.

In addition, the Interested Parents Group continues to receive copies of all council correspondence via email. This information can be found on the school website, but anyone who would like to receive the council correspondence and notifications directly to their inbox, is welcome to add their name to that list.

In keeping with our mission statement, "To Foster Partnerships that Enhance Student Achievement", the Council worked hand in hand with the Fundraising Committee and the Grade 8 Committee, as well as school Administration and Staff throughout the year on a variety of activities that funded a number of initiatives.

Highlights included the following events and activities:

- **Open House / Pizza Q:** An annual event in late September for parents to meet the teachers and get a look at what their kids have been learning. Pizza and drinks sold during this dinner hour event.
- **Parent Engagement Grant:** As in past years, these funds (\$500) were used to help purchase agendas for students in grades 2 to 8.
- **Forest Hill Holiday Fayre:** Pre Christmas Craft Show and Sale with a Lunch Cafe. The 2nd year for this event and a huge success with proceeds going to technology.
- **Basket Raffle:** The 3rd year for this much anticipated fundraiser which benefits athletics.
- **Dance-A-Thon:** A fun event for the whole school with proceeds benefitting technology.
- **Hot Dog Lunch:** Proceeds go towards technology.
- **Pizza Lunch:** Proceeds support athletics.
- **Milk Program:** Sold at near cost as a important nutritional supplement.
- **Pita Lunch:** Proceeds to General School Needs.
- **Applebee's Pancake Breakfast:** Proceeds support the Grade 8 Graduation activities.
- **QSP Magazine Sales:** On the decline due to on-line availability of magazines. Proceeds to technology.
- **Wendy's Night:** 10% of sales were donated back to the school.
- **Labels Labels:** Available via link on the school website. Proceeds to General School Needs.
- **Big Box of Cards:** A new Endeavour to raise funds for the library and water bottle filling stations. An unprecedented success!
- **Midhurst Mile:** This annual spring event was much expanded and well attended. It included a Bike Rodeo and a food truck and there was lots of community involvement. Proceeds go to athletics & water bottle filling stations as well as track maintenance.
- **Spiritwear:** Available for order at the Open House.
- **School Photos:** 1st year with a new company, Edge Imaging. In addition to school photos, Edge provided photo badges and lanyards for volunteers and other school groups like the APP Squad at no additional charge.
- **PROGRANT:** Successfully applied for this \$1,000 grant which will be used to augment our primary home reading program.
- **Global Action:** Raises funds to support a school in Bungkulung, India through various student driven activities like the White Elephant Sale, as well collecting donations for the local food banks.
- **Character Education Assemblies:** Held throughout the year to highlight the many positive character traits of our students.

As a result of all these activities the school was able to support academic achievement through the following purchases: *(Note that some of these will be purchased in the next school due to tender restrictions, pricing trends and availability.)*

- 50 + iPads, along with Otter box cases for primary & junior grades
- Chrome books for grades 6,7 & 8 - 7 devices for each of the 9 classes (63) (September 2015)
- Whiteboards to replace blackboards in all classrooms (September 2105)
- Ultra Short Throw projector and laptop to be purchased and installed in the gym for the Leadership Assemblies and other activities (September 2015)
- Under desk cycles for students with ADHD - 1 or 2 in each classroom (September 2015)
- Additional video surveillance for office and another fob door switch for back doors for students from the portable to have washroom access.
- Purchase of APPS and annual maintenance fees for each machine and training for the APP Squad
- Funds for each teacher for miscellaneous expenses like cables, photographs, white boards, cork boards etc.
- Primary books for the parent/home reading program as well as book bags to transport the books.
- Laminating film
- Guest Speakers
- Load of gravel for track maintenance (September 2015)
- Support of many field trips *(for those that required financial assistance)*
- EQAO support packages
- Athletic supplies, supply teacher coverage for coaches to attend games and new uniforms
- Neon yellow safety vests for teachers on yard duty and child sizes of same for special needs children.

2014-15 Past Meeting Dates:

The Council held 7 meetings during the 2014-15 school year: September 8, October 6, November 3. Meetings scheduled for January 5 & February 2 were cancelled due to weather, so March 2 meeting was added, April 6, May 4, June 1.

2015-16 Future Meeting Dates:

For next year Council meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 14 *(to plan September Open House)*, October 5, November 2, January 4, February 1, April 4, May 2 and June 6.

Thank you to all School Council Members for their commitment to and involvement in Forest Hill Public School – your efforts are appreciated by all.

The dedication and commitment of our parent volunteers continues to amaze me. We are so lucky to be able to provide such an engaging and supportive learning environment for our children.

We bid a fond farewell to Deb Russell as she retires to spend her days on the golf course, and look forward to working with our new principal, Linda Blom.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Jane Ulens

Chair FHPS Council 2014-15