

SCHOOL COUNCIL 101

What is Mary Johnston's School Council?

Mary Johnston's School Council is made up of a maximum of 10-12 parent/guardian voting members and the school principal as well as teacher and support staff representatives. The Council meets monthly during the school year. The meetings provide the opportunity to share information and provide parent input to school, School Board and Ministry of Education programs and plans. All Mary Johnston parents are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings. Community members, including parents of children who will be attending Mary Johnston in the future, are also welcome at all meetings. Child care is provided for your children while you attend the meetings.



Members of the Council invite involvement from *all* parents and guardians of children at Mary Johnston. Such involvement might mean attending some or all of the meetings, helping out with a fund-raising event, joining a committee or simply reviewing the meeting agendas and minutes and providing some feedback where appropriate. Involvement need not be a major time commitment and can occur at any time throughout the school year. If you check our Mary Johnston website mjp.wrdsb.ca, you will see a tab titled "Volunteer at MJ". Under this tab, there are descriptions of the different areas that volunteer look after.

Why get involved in Mary Johnston's School Council?

- ❖ Research has shown that parental involvement in their children's school is a major factor in the children achieving their best. Involvement in the School Council is a way to show your son or daughter how much you value his or her school and education.
- ❖ The school Principal reports at every meeting on activities and programs at Mary Johnston and in the school system – this is a great way for you to keep informed as a parent.
- ❖ Parents have the opportunity through the School Council to influence decisions made by the administration at Mary Johnston, the School Board and the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Meetings are informal and an ideal way to get to know other parents at the school.
- ❖ Through its annual fundraisers School Council pays for important materials and activities at Mary Johnston. Without the work of parent volunteers, students at Mary Johnston would miss out.



What are the main fundraisers?

Mary Johnston's School Council raises the majority of its money through the following fundraisers:

- ❖ Drop off Night (Dec)
- ❖ Move-a-thon (March/April)
- ❖ Weekly pizza days (throughout year)
- ❖ Dinner and a Movie night (Spring)



What does Mary Johnston's School Council spend its money on?

Each year the way in which Council's money is spent varies. In the past, council purchased new mats for the gym, bike and scooter racks, supported busing for the school musical, STEAM Fair, Character Development, Nutrition for Learning and subsidized field trips for all students. Council also pays for such things as home reading and special education materials, and helped bring in visiting artists or performers. The playground equipment for PALS at Mary Johnston is also paid for by School Council fundraisers.

Details regarding the School Council meetings:

Our first meeting for the 2018 school-year will be Wednesday, September 19.

The remaining School Council meetings for 2018-2019 will take place on the Oct 24, Nov 21, Jan 16, Feb 20, Apr 17, May 15 and June TBD.

Meetings start at 7 pm and are held in the school Library. The front door and parking lot door will be opened at 6:45pm for entry. Childcare will be provided at no cost to parents who use this service.

Meeting minutes will be sent out by School-Day and will be posted on the school website.

*Please Get Involved and Be Part of
Making MJ Such a Great School!*