

School Council Highlights

OCTOBER 2018

DEAR FAMILIES OF ABRAHAM ERB

I hope everyone is settling into the new school year nicely. Your School Council is off to a great start for sure and I'm excited to be the new Chair of the Council working with this amazing team!

At our first meeting, we elected 17 Parent Members and 1 Community Rep. It was so nice to see many new faces at the September meeting. As a reminder, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, even if you're not a voting member of Council!

At our first meeting, the Principal Mrs. Schumann provided an update on the primary class shuffling and programs like HeroGem continuing this year, Terry Fox Run and a new partnership with MADD regarding healthy choices (for junior students).

At our October meeting, we will start to build out the Council plan for this school year. Watch for more information from us on upcoming events!

Jennifer

WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

We aim to:

- ✓ Be a valuable **advisory group** for the Principal and the Board by building inclusive and diverse parent representation
- ✓ Encourage **parent engagement** in education and our school community
- ✓ **Enrich** the student and parent **experience** through additional programs and equipment not already funded by the school board

[Click here for more on our Council.](#)

Next meeting is
OCTOBER 17th at 7PM
 in the school library
 For minutes and agendas: [Click here](#)

CHAIR – Jennifer Kennedy

TREASURER – Carolyn MacTavish

SECRETARY – Leena Sheth

FUNDRAISING LEADS - Megha Birmiwala &

Amanda Ibanescu

EMAIL: abrahamerschoolcouncil@gmail.com

WHAT HELPS KIDS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL?

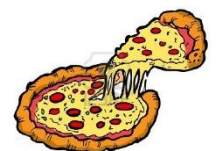
One of my favourite places online for parent resources is PeopleforEducation.org. Here is a short video they created about the top four things parents can do to help their kids succeed in school.

[Click here for video](#)



PIZZA DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for 4-6 volunteers to help out 1 Tuesday per month from 1-2pm. The volunteers greet the pizza delivery person and sort the pizza slices into the classroom pre-orders for the classroom rep to pickup. Email the council (address above) or speak with Mary in the office if you can help!



HAVE FEEDBACK FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON EDUCATION IN ONTARIO?

Public feedback forums are now open on the Ministry of Education website. Everyone can participate...parents, students, educators, community members. They have 7 focus areas they are seeking feedback on:

1. Student performance in STEM
2. Job skills (skilled trades, coding etc.)
3. Standardized testing
4. Financial literacy and other life skills
5. Use of technology/cell phones in class
6. Health and Phys.Ed curriculum (includes mental health, sex ed. and cannabis)

Find out more here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>

There are 4 ways to make your voice heard:

- 1) Open submission form [Click here](#)
- 2) Email fortheparents@ontario.ca
- 3) Online Survey (coming soon)
- 4) Telephone townhall (coming soon)

Consultation is open until December 15.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PARENTS AND COUNCIL IN 2017/2018

Here are some things led or supported by parents last year:

- ✓ New playground installed in Fall 2017
- ✓ Family Science Night with U of W
- ✓ Family Fun Night (AKA Fire Alarm Night 😊)
- ✓ Purchase of:
 - Scientist in the School program
 - Technology for the classrooms (Charging cart and document camera)
 - Startup funds for musical "Press Start"
 - Tarmac painting and toys
 - Home reading books (French and English) and high interest books

Thanks to everyone who volunteered or donated!

Who **LOVES** to fundraise by selling chocolates, giftwrap etc to family and friends?? Not many of us! But we do it because of the amazing programs and resources we can provide for our kids.

Did you know you can avoid these fundraisers and make your \$\$ go directly to our kids?

Watch for more details coming soon!

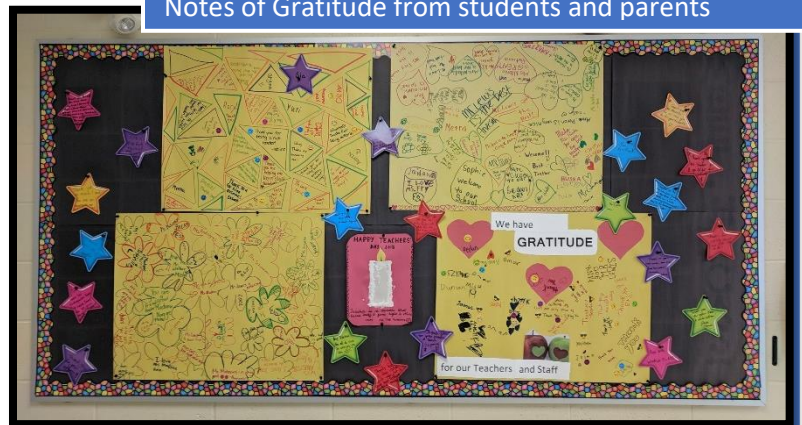
WE CELEBRATED

WORLD TEACHER DAY

World Teachers Day (Oct 5) was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1994 to celebrate the educators in the world.

This year we let our school teachers and staff know how much we appreciate their dedication, energy and abilities by hosting morning coffee & treats. Many students and parents signed "Thank-you" posters before and after school (in secret, sort of 😊). The posters are up on the front bulletin board ... just in time for HeroGem GRATITUDE weeks.

Notes of Gratitude from students and parents



SURPRISE! Starbucks coffee and treats in the staffroom

ARE YOU PREPARED TO VOTE ON OCT 22?

School Board Trustees play a vital role in local decision making for our Board. They establish strategy, policies, budgets and oversee senior staff.

Are you prepared to vote? Here are some links that might help...

[What is a School Board Trustee?](#)

[Who are the candidates?](#)