



McMurrich Junior Public School – School Council

Wednesday June 21, 2023

What a year!

On behalf of the McMurrich School Council, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a successful school year and thank you all for your support. This year saw the return of many long-standing favourites and new initiatives that your School Council ran to bring our community together. From outreach to fundraisers and everything in between, below is an overview of how we supported our school and most importantly, our children.

ENRICHMENT

With your help and support, we were able to fund:

- A new ice machine for all the schoolyard bumps and bruises
- Two new wheelbarrows for OPAL play
- Dash and Dot Robots
- Pride Club theatre workshops and author visits
- Pride month parade, classroom activities, and Queer Songbook Orchestra visit
- New jerseys for our athletics program
- Wifi adapters for DHH classroom
- A school-wide lice check
- A school-wide science workshop with the Science Riot Grrls
- Hot chocolate for the school-wide skating event; coffee/tea on the first day of school
- Art supplies for the school-wide Voices Art Project
- Water cooler for school events, and the water truck at the Fun Fair

Major contributions were made to the yard renewal/playground fund. We are well on our way to achieving our \$65,000 goal, expecting to meet it in the 2023-24 school year. The new playground is slated to be built in Summer 2024.

Did you know that the School Council funds classrooms directly? Teachers can spend these funds as they see fit - ie. for supplies, to offset costs of specialists or field trips, or to host class parties. This year, teachers were able to organize:

- Two Downey's Farm field trips
- Pioneer Village field trip
- AGO field trip
- YPT & T.Y.T Theatre field trips
- York University science workshop/field trip
- End-of-year movie trip
- Pawsitively Pets visit
- Clay workshop
- Music of the world & painting workshop
- Scientists in the School visits
- Plants for terrarium project
- Makedo construction kits

- Butterfly larvae kits for all kindergarten classes
- Headphones for all French classes
- and many other educational and art supply purchases.

OUTREACH

School Council prides itself on building community. We hosted a number of Outreach events intended to bring the school together (some modest fundraising was also achieved). Outreach events included:

- McMurrich Day at the Blue Jays Game
- McMurrich Day at the Marlies Game & Choir Performance
- Skating Afternoon at Wallace Emerson rink
- Welcome Tea and Coffee
- Movie Night
- Staff Appreciation Potluck Lunch
- Parents' Pub Night at *The Gym* (pub)
- Lost and Found Program
- Pride Day Events (with speakers Jill Andrew and Shelley Laskin)
- Sales of School Merchandise
- Grade 6 Graduation celebrations

ADVOCACY

Advocacy is not just a commitment for the School Council, it's non-negotiable. This year, our collective voice resulted in:

- A new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
- Supporting the school in creating Holocaust Awareness programming
- Advocating for the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ families in our school and throughout the TDSB and **obtaining support/attendance of school's representatives**
- Supporting the school's new Black Student Alliance
- Lobbying for better road safety around our school, resulting in new No-Parking signage and increased police presence, as well as the **reinstatement of additional crossing guards**
- Supporting the Safe School initiatives within the school
- Creating School Council bylaws
- Lobbying Councillor Josh Matlow for supporting our schoolyard refresh, resulting in a **\$150,000 contribution from the City of Toronto**
- Ensuring our community's needs are met by the TDSB for our schoolyard refresh
- Applying for various grants

FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEERS

Without your financial support and time commitment to volunteering, none of this would be possible.

As Co-Chairs of your school council, we want to thank each and every one of you who showed up for our kids and our school. A few of you have gone above and beyond, devoting so much time and effort that we'd like to recognize along with major fundraisers you spearheaded and committees you led:

- **SILENT AUCTION:** Thank You **Noemi Hallett, Francine Forte, Janis Lempera, and Thomas Ho**, for spending countless hours organizing this truly impressive event, raising us almost \$18,000.
- **FUN FAIR:** Thank You **Rebecca Wise** for leading this committee and your efforts in organizing this MASSIVE event helping raise almost \$13,000 (and kicking off summer in the best way!)
- **PIZZA LUNCH:** Thank You **Eto Gordon and Portia Jhagroo** for your monthly time and organizational efforts that supported us raising almost \$12,000.
- **DANCE-A-THON:** Thank You **Danna Fichtenbaum** for running this fun event that raised almost \$5,000.
- **WINE SURVIVOR:** Thank You **Jenn Dunk and Beverley Eadie** for organizing this favourite and raising almost \$2,000
- **And More:** The champions behind other initiatives: **Olimpia Boido, Janis Lempera, Gwynyth Kier,**

Roxanne Wright, and Carmela Cabrera-Diaz.

FINALLY, we couldn't have done any of this without our amazing School Council executive and key committee leads. A huge thank you to our co-treasurers, Jon Hook and Gwynyth Kier, our co-secretaries, Janis Lempera and Briar Wells, and our communications lead, Serah Lefler. And, to all of our committee leads: Lauren Resnick, Beverley Eadie, Dionne Aleman, Sarah Bowness, Hon-Yee Choi, Celia Rojas, Carmela Cabrera-Diaz, and Carolina Arenas.

We'd also like to thank an incredibly engaged, active and supportive Office-Admin team: Julie Whitfield, Laura Scott, Shazia Arif and Sandy (Alexandra) Christeas.

GET IN ON THE FUN AND JOIN US NEXT YEAR!

We are always welcoming to new members and ideas. With only one meeting each month (virtual, in-person or hybrid), there are many committees and roles available – there is something for everyone!

If you have any questions or wish to get involved, please email us at mcmurrichschoolcouncil@gmail.com or livyandrachelatmcmurrich@gmail.com.

In closing, the School Council would like to **THANK EVERYONE** for a successful year. Together, we helped make McMurrich an amazing place for our children, full of learning **and** fun! We're looking forward to what next year will bring.

Have a very happy, healthy and safe summer!

Rachel Cooper and Livy Jacobs, your 2023 School Council Co-Chairs

STAY CONNECTED: School Council provides communications via our [website](#), email newsletters, [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), class connectors and emails sent through the school office.

Website: <http://www.mcmurrichschoolcouncil.com>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcmurrichjrps/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/McMurrichParent>

General/Communications: mcmurrichschoolcouncil@gmail.com

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