



October 2023 SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

-----PRINCIPAL/VICE PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE-----

PHOTO DAYS

The first photo day of this school year was on Wednesday Oct.18; **photo retake day will be Wednesday, November 22**. Class photos will take place in the new year on Wednesday, January 24.

There are several TDSB approved photography companies, and new contracts with the photography provider will be signed in early 2024 (ahead of class photo sessions); we will review whether the results of the initial photos are satisfactory in terms of quality and seek feedback from parents before re-signing.

STEELPAN MUSIC PROGRAM, SPORTS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND UPDATES

We are excited to continue to move forward with our revamping of the school field, having solidified the choice of our new playground structure - option #2 prevailed in the "dotmocracy" student vote. Additionally, in response to requests to reinstate the baseball field, installation of a new elevated fencing/backstop feature has been arranged to allow for a baseball and kickball play area (without gravel or a diamond).

Sports tryouts and teams are in full swing, with girls' basketball tryouts and boy's volleyball tryouts currently underway. The recent cross country meet was a success, with lots of McMurrich students participating and performing well.

We're also happy to announce the addition of a steelpan music program for sixth grade students, beginning October 18, taking place in the portable classroom. Two of the grade 6 classes will begin now, followed by another cohort of grade 6 students once the first session has wrapped.

The annual **Dance-a-Thon** is fast approaching, taking place on Thursday November 16th! Fundraising begins very soon - stay tuned.

LICE CHECKS

School-wide lice checks are upcoming, to ensure we stay ahead of potential issues and spread. Specific dates for these will be communicated to parents ahead of time, but the target timeframes are: late October/early November, early January, and shortly after March break. Families will be asked to pay \$7.50 per child, which will cover 3 checks throughout the year. Depending on funds raised, we will pursue either 2 or 3 annual checks; school council will cover a portion of the cost.

-----CO-CHAIRS' UPDATE-----

MEMBERS AT LARGE 2023-24

This year's members at large: Lauren Reznick Balakar, Candace Cramer, Carmela Cabrera-Walker, Lorianna DiGiorgio, Jennifer Dunk, Beverley Eadie, Janna Fraser, Eto Gordon, Thomas Ho, Monika Jankowiak, Serah Lefler, Janis Narun Lempera, Celia Rojas, Sarah Bowness, Dionne Aleman.

2023-24 COUNCIL BUDGET REVIEW

This year's council budget was approved by a vote, which passed with quorum. Some funds were reviewed and raised/lowered accordingly, based on last year's outcomes and projected initiatives for 2023/24. This year a fundraiser via winter flower sales is likely, along with a holiday market, Mabel's Label's, and more.

This school year the council's major expenditure is the playground project (\$65,000). Councillor Josh Matlow's office has committed \$150,000 to the project (total budget: \$215,000). School council will release \$40,000 of its funds to the contractor now, and the remaining \$25,000 in late winter/early spring.

COMMITTEES

Outreach and enrichment this year will include a **Pub Night** at Alberta Provisions (1150 Davenport Rd @Alberta Ave), scheduled for Thursday November 9. It will be a fun night out connecting with others from the school community! Plans for a **Movie Night** are also in the works (date TBD).

The Graduation Committee is still in need of a co-chair to help organize this important event (please get in touch if that person is you!). A lead for the Fun Fair is also still needed if this event is to take place; if there are any parents interested in taking this on, please reach out to council.

Fundraising efforts for this year will include a **Holiday Market** on Sunday, December 10. This will be a great opportunity to do some of your holiday shopping while supporting local vendors AND helping raise funds for the school. Vendors are needed! Please reach out to potential participants in your network if they'd be interested in taking part. Cost will be \$125 per vendor (for a table+tablecloth).

Ongoing/upcoming fundraising initiatives: Pizza Lunch, Dance-a-Thon, hair elastic sales, Wine Survivor, Mabel's Label's.

LOOKING FORWARD

UPCOMING KEY DATES (led by school council)

OCTOBER 23: Wine Survivor

OCTOBER 27: Pizza Day

NOVEMBER 9: Parent Pub Night @ Alberta Provisions

NOVEMBER 16: Dance-a-Thon

NOVEMBER 20: Holocaust Education (Gr. 4-6)

NOVEMBER 22: Photo Re-Take Day

NOVEMBER 24: Pizza Day

DECEMBER 10: Holiday Market

DECEMBER 15: Pizza Day

JANUARY 24: Class Photo Day

FEBRUARY 23: Pizza Day

MARCH 29: Pizza Day

APRIL 26: Pizza Day

MAY 31: Pizza Day

JUNE 21: Pizza Day

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in the school basement. Students and their caregivers are welcomed to look through it. In order to keep it manageable, unclaimed items are removed at the end of each month. You can also find updated pictures of Lost and Found items [here](#)

If you have questions, they can be directed to the lost and found organizer: olimpia.boido@gmail.com

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on November 21, 7pm. Watch for an email from the School Office with zoom/location details closer to the meeting date.

Subsequent council meetings for 2023/24 are slated as follows:

- January 16 (potentially a daytime meeting)
- February 20/27
- April 23
- May 21
- June 18

ATTENDEES OF THIS COUNCIL MEETING

Julie Whitfield, Laura Scott, Livy Jacobs, Rachel Cooper, Adriana Cavell, Beverley Eadie, Briar Wells, Carmela Cabrera-Walker, Celia Rojas, Danna Fichtenbaum, Eto Gordon, Gwynyth Kier, Janis Narun Lempera, Janna Fraser, Jennifer Dunk, Jonathan Hook, Lauren Reznick Balakar, Lorianna DiGiorgio, Monika Jankowiak, Sarah Bowness, Thomas Ho

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School Council contact page: <https://www.mcmurrichschoolcouncil.com/contact-us/>

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