



Island Public / Natural Science School

30 Centre Island Park, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2E9
Telephone: (416) 393-1910 Fax (416) 393-9346
Principal: Gary Pieters



Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Candidates for Parent Representatives on the 2023-2024 Island Public/Natural Science School Council

At the close of nominations on Monday, September 11, 2023, the following Parents/Guardians/Caregivers submitted nomination forms to serve as parent representatives on the 2023-2024 Island Public/Natural Science School Council.

Candidate Name: Lindsay Stephens

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

I think parent council can be a great way to support our kids and be involved in our community. I am an assistant professor at UofT, have done lots of community organizing, and have a history in arts and entertainment, so I'm sure I can offer something to the school community.

Candidate Name: Jason Applebaum

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

I've been part of the IPS community since 2011 when my eldest was in nursery (she's now grade 9), my 2nd daughter just graduated grade 6 at IPS and my youngest is in grade 2. My wife and I have donated and supported IPS throughout, and I understand there's a desire for a Treasurer, and I'm a CPA and willing to help.

Candidate Name: Jennie Lai

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

My eldest started at IPS in 2011, my second just graduated, and my youngest is in grade 2. I've been donating, volunteering, and getting volunteers to help since we started, and am happy to continue my support.

Candidate Name: Bidisha De Sarkar

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Candidate Name: Pras Chatterjee

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Candidate Name: Maria Khan

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

As a dedicated parent and a Computer Scientist with 7 years in IT industry, I believe I can contribute meaningfully to our school community. In my professional career, I had the privilege of leading diverse teams as a project manager. In summary, if elected as a school council member, I will bring enthusiasm and commitment to make our school community an even better place for our children to learn and grow.

Candidate Name: Johnny Tkach

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Candidate Name: Abigail Wren

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

I'm a dedicated member of the IPS community, and a many-years School Council volunteer. I'm currently helping Council get caught up on its reporting obligations and have helped put on events like the Fun Fair in June 2022. I'd like us to do more of these throughout the year so am volunteering to be on Council to help make that happen.

Candidate Name: Natasha Benham

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Candidate Name: Tracey Baker

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

My daughter has just entered grade 2, and I am very passionate about enriching not only her experience at IPS, but all children's experience. I helped organize the 2023 Fun Fair, and thoroughly enjoyed this. I would be thrilled to be a part of school council, to continue my efforts.

Candidate Name: Kate Valiquette

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

My name is Kate Valiquette, I am a parent of (a child) in SK. I am a long time teacher with DPCDSB, former treasurer of Gibraltar Point Day Nursery and a member of the safe and caring school committee at Island Public School.

I have been living in the Toronto waterfront community for over 10 years now and have established relationships with many in the area.

I would like to be a part of the IPS parent council so that I can help support the school and further the community connection of parent and child and school. I think it's important to have a well running parent council to improve the success of the school and work to ensure that goals are met and fundraising events provide monies to the school and teacher "wish lists" to better support strong student learning and engagement for everyone.

It would be lovely to work with other parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure the best for the school in the 2023-2024 school year.

Candidate Name: Samira Zarghami

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Samira Zarghami, Registered Dietitian and Diabetes Educator. Am a parent of 2 children. My background in working at Toronto Public Health as well as BC HealthLink, will enable me to provide valuable feedback to the council. Am very much interested in being involved in ensuring that all children have a safe and healthy environment to play and learn.

Candidate Name: Jeff Kearns

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

Jeff has a successful career in entertainment and community building. He is great at bringing people together to accomplish fun and rewarding activities together.

Candidate Name: Jennifer Yeung

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

I've been a part of IPS school community for 8 years now and have a number of years still left to go. I would like to continue to be part of the school council to further build the community and help it grow. Thank you!

Candidate Name: Kristine Burns

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

I would like to be involved in school council to be more involved in my child's school.

Candidate Name: Karen Rothfels

Please provide a short biography about yourself and why you would like to be a part of School Council, or about why the person you are nominating is an ideal candidate

My name is Karen Rothfels. I have had kids enrolled at IPS since 2014 and my daughter Olive is currently in Grade 6. I believe that an open, engaged school council operating at a grass roots level enriches the IPS experience for all our kids.

As noted in the election by laws and the timelines:

- **Monday, September 11, 2023:** NOMINATIONS CLOSE. Nominations for parent/guardian/caregiver representatives are due no later than 2:00 p.m. to Principal Gary Pieters by email at gary.pieters@tdsb.on.ca.
- **Tuesday, September 12, 2023:** Listing of Candidates made public
- **Thursday, September 14, 2023:** ELECTION DAY. **If there are 80 or fewer names put forth, then the nominees will be acclaimed.** If there are more than 80 nominees, the election will be held in-person at Island Public/Natural Science School at 4:00 p.m.
- **Friday, September 15, 2023:** School Council Representatives Announced

- **Thursday, October 5, 2023: EXECUTIVE ELECTION.** At the first School Council Meeting the election of Executives, including Chair; Co-Chair; Secretary; and Treasurer, will take place.
- **Tuesday, October 10, 2023: School Council Executive Announced**

With 16 nominations forms received, the 16 parent representatives will be declared acclaimed on Thursday, September 14, 2023. At the School Council meeting on Thursday, October 5th, the 16 acclaimed parent council representatives will select the new school council executive.

Any questions, please let me know here by email or by phone at 416-393-1905 or 416-985-1266.

Gary Pieters

CC: Judee Yarmolinsky, Election Committee Member