

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL?

A School Council is a forum where parents, the school principal and other members of the school community (teachers, staff, etc) discuss school issues and plan ways to improve the school.

At School Council meetings we discuss many issues that are important to us:

- ✓ our children's successes,
- ✓ what our children are learning,
- ✓ the school's budget,
- ✓ the school's safety,
- ✓ renovations,
- ✓ after-school activities, and
- ✓ other matters that affect the education of our children.

School Councils can do a LOT to set the tone and feel of a school and contribute the extra support needed to help a school really SHINE.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Any parent or member of the school community can come to a School Council meeting and speak (or just listen if they prefer).

In September, the parent members at the first School Council Meeting will elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. Any parent member of council can run for these positions.

HOW DOES OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL WORK?

School Council meets once a month, usually from 6:30-7:30 PM.

At each meeting, the Principal and members of the Council report on what is new or planned for the school.

Parents or school community members can also raise issues that concern them or make suggestions about ways to improve the school.

Usually the School Council discusses the issues and makes recommendations to the Principal or the School Board at the same meeting.

Sometimes, a sub-committee is brought together to discuss an issue and report back to the Council or plan and organize a Council initiative.

The School Council also fundraises (e.g. for school equipment, performances & field trips); organizes special events (e.g. Dance-A-Thon); and

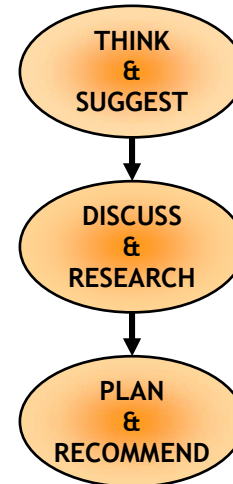
assists with
Parent

Organize
Events

Fund
Raise

Communications.

Build
Community



OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER?

Being part of the School Council is not the only way to get involved at your child's school.

You could:

- ✓ Become a reading mentor.
- ✓ Accompany a class on a field trip.
- ✓ Volunteer your skills to a class or organize something special (e.g. teach a craft, help coach a team, start a cooking club, plan a Grandparent's day, etc).
- ✓ Help to translate or mentor a parent new to Canada.
- ✓ Join a School Council sub-committee. You don't have to come to council meetings to be involved with the council.
- ✓ Volunteer to help at the Fall Barbeque, the Dance-A-Thon, or the winter music concert.



If you are interested in helping, please ask your Child's Teacher, Coach, Librarian, or the Principal how you can help.

Let's work together to make our School community strong for our children and give them the education they deserve.

SIX REASONS TO VOLUNTEER

Adapted from Five Smart Reasons Why Parents Should Volunteer At School - SuchASmartMom.Com

1. Kids whose parents volunteer at school do better in school than other kids

No surprise there. Studies show that children whose parents are involved in their education tend to do well in school. It's not that the actual work we do makes them thrive. It's that parents who are involved in activities like School Council tend to have a stronger commitment to education.

2. Volunteering sends a message to your kids that school is important

Volunteering sends a clear message to your kids: I care about about your school. I care about you being at a school that is the best it can be. And I care so much that I am volunteering my time at your school.

3. Volunteering sends a message to your school that your kids' education is important

There is no better way to tell your children's teachers and administrators that you want your kids to get the best education possible than by getting involved at their school.

4. Volunteering helps give a little extra in a time of budget cuts

Shrinking budgets are forcing schools to do more with less at a time when our kids need to learn more than ever. Volunteering is a way to enrich your children's school at no cost. The School Council can also raise funds for extras that the TDSB does not cover such as extra sports equipment and fieldtrips.

5. Volunteering feels good

Giving to your community is the right thing to do. Most parents start volunteering because of their kids, but soon find that helping their community feels good.

6. Volunteering is a GREAT way to learn new skills

Many parent volunteers find they pick up skills that make them better at their jobs and can improve their parenting too. For example, volunteering can provide the chance to practice and become a better communicator or a better organiser.

Finally, here's a really selfish reason to join the School Council: you will meet some fine people and sink your roots deep into your community.

Source: <http://suchasmartmom.com/2009/03/20/five-smart-reasons-why-parents-should-volunteer-in-the-pta/>

Child Trends DataBank Report: Parental Involvement in Schools

Students with parents who are involved in their school tend to have fewer behavioural problems and better academic performance, and are more likely to complete secondary school than students whose parents are not involved in their school.

Parental involvement allows parents to monitor school and classroom activities, and to coordinate their efforts with teachers. Teachers of students with highly involved parents tend to give greater attention to those students, and they tend to identify problems that might inhibit student learning at earlier stages.

Research has found that students perform better in school if their fathers as well as their mothers are involved, regardless of whether the father lives with the student or not.

Source: <http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators/39ParentalInvolvementinSchools.cfm>



Help make your school the best for your child...



Volunteering & School Council

