



Ecole Parc School Council & Ecole Parc Fundraising Society 2021-2022 Annual Report for EIPS

Trustee: Ralph Sorochan
Principal: Daniel Verhoeff
Vice Principal: Shelley Boswell

SCHOOL COUNCIL BOARD:

Chair – Jennifer Dechaine
Vice Chair – Amanda Shand
Secretary – Meghan Anderson

COSC Reps: Leanna Betchel and Jenn Dechaine

FUNDRAISING SOCIETY BOARD:

Chair – Jennifer Dechaine
Vice Chair – Amanda Shand
Secretary - Meghan Anderson
Treasurer – Jasmyne Garbe

Casino Representative – Jennifer Dechaine
Hot Lunch Coordinator – Amy Archibald
Green Space Coordinator – Jennifer Dechaine

MEETING DATES:

September 15, 2021 (AGM)
September 29, 2021
October 27, 2021
November 24, 2021
January 26, 2022

February 23, 2022
March 23, 2022
April 27, 2022
May 25, 2022
June 22, 2022

OVERVIEW

This year started with Zoom meetings and tightened restrictions and ended with a return to pre pandemic operations. With staff and families still under considerable stress from the pandemic we focused on supporting school staff by continuing our Staff Appreciation program, minimizing how much we asked from parents for fundraising, and further implementing projects we had put on hold the previous year due to restrictions.

SCHOOL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Added the EIPS Land and People Acknowledgement to our monthly Council meetings.
- Advanced the land-based learning initiative with a grant from DOW Canada.
- Participated in Christmas Community Connection activity called Paper Bag Fairies.
- Supported the staff in their food bank collection event in December.
- Participated in Assurance Review.
- Supported literacy and numeracy needs identified in various grades.

- Applied for the School Council Engagement Grant and then pooled it with other schools to support a speaker series.
- Surveyed staff to understand how we can best show our appreciation and support them. Used the feedback to roll out a more robust teacher appreciation program for the second year in a row.
- Participated in School Fee consultation.
- Partnered with the City of Fort Sask to expanded a composting program to the whole school.
- Participated in EIPS Parent Survey in March.
- Attended the ASCA Conference in April.
- Hosted retirement event for Margie Davidson, our school Secretary.
- Co-hosted with school staff, a Family Outdoor Movie Night and Party.

FUNDRAISING SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

- Surveyed parents at the beginning of the year to determine how they prefer to support the school.
- Focused our efforts on expanding the hot lunch program and using it as our main fundraising initiative.
- Along with hot lunch we hosted the following events – Spirit Wear (Fall and Spring), Panago Pizza coupons, movie night donation, and M&M Meats. Tru Earth and Cobs are ongoing fundraisers.
- Applied to AGLC for a casino money retention request of \$6000. Approved to spend it by June 2023.
- Developed a webpage linked to the school website for all School Council and Fundraising Society information. Our meeting agendas and minutes remain on the main school website.
- Updated our money handling procedures as a result of a school audit. Moved all money collection online.
- Received DOW grant of \$5000.00 for our outdoor classroom space.

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Agendas | • Teacher Appreciation project |
| • Classroom Stipend | • Green Space and Indigenous Outdoor Classroom Project |
| • Levelled Reading Books | • Community Connection Christmas Paperbag Fairies Project |
| • Musical Instruments | • Gardening Club |
| • Classroom library books | • Family Movie Night & Party |
| • Lacrosse equipment | • Ice Machine in Staff room |
| • Emergency Lunch Supplies | |
| • Holiday Treat (cinnamon buns) | |

KEY SCHOOL COUNCIL AND FUNDRAISING SOCIETY INITIATIVES:

GREEN SPACE & INDIGENOUS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Over the last seven years we have been slowly developing our green space into a multi-use outdoor classroom with a focus on enhancing the FNMI land-based learning initiative. This year we focused on

maintaining the space we have developed, educating staff about how to use it to its full potential, and teaching students how to respect nature and our outdoor space through the seven sacred teachings. We applied for a grant from the DOW Community Fund and were successful. That \$5000 grant went to special supplies that would enable teachers to use the outdoor space for land-based learning activities, and to a large number of sidewalk activity stencils. We will be putting down the stencils with a group of DOW volunteers as soon as the weather cooperates. It is also our intention to share the stencils with the City of Fort Saskatchewan, other schools, and groups in the district.

The grade 4 Garden Club was able to run again this Spring with the enthusiastic leadership from M. Verhoeff. The students plant and maintain 5 raised beds at the front of the school. We also have two raised beds in the courtyard with perennials planted in them.

The cost of materials, plants, and supplies this year for the mud kitchen, the garden club, and the general maintenance of the green space was approximately \$350. This on the lower end of our average spending each year.

This Fall 2021 The City of Fort Saskatchewan refreshed the mulch in the shrub beds at the front of the school. They provided this service at no cost to us this year where we have paid for it once in the past. The mulch does need to be topped up every few years.

The trees and shrubs that were planted on the playground in the fall of 2020 with grants from Tree Canada and Shell are doing fairly well. One tree is due to be replaced by The Landscaping Company as part of the one-year warranty. The saskatoon shrubs were hit hard this past winter and only about half survived. Three old Spruce trees at the front of our school became diseased and were taken down by EIPS facilities in June 2022.

A final piece of the Shell grant for the Indigenous Outdoor Classroom Project is to be completed this summer. It includes a low fence for the east end of the courtyard and a gathering circle or hollow log play element in a corner of the courtyard.

Over the summer the gardens and trees will be weeded and watered by parent volunteers. This is a necessary job to ensure all our hard work through the school year is maintained.

HOT LUNCH

For the 2021-2022 school year we ran a total of 25 hot lunch days for Grades K-6 and supplemented 9 hot lunches for the Kindergarten A group. This was a large increase from past years as it was determined we would use hot lunch as our main fundraising initiative for this year. We used Hotlunches.net site for families to order and pay and we stopped accepting any payments in the form of cash. This was a big step forward for us and a necessary one.

We ran hot lunches on Tuesdays throughout the school year. Before Christmas we averaged 2 hot lunches a month from October - December and accumulated a total of \$3171.00. In January - June we supplied 3-4 hot lunches a month and accumulated a total of \$5496.47. A total of \$8667.47 was earned through Hot lunch fundraising for the 2021/2022 school year.

We would alternate through the vendors on consistent weeks throughout the whole year. Vendors included - Freson Brothers Deli, The Venue Catering, Panago Pizza, and Cobs Bread.

In November the School Council decided to allocate \$50.00/month of hot lunch fundraising efforts to buy perishable lunch foods for the school students in the case of forgotten lunches. This food was found to be very necessary and is recommended to be continued in the upcoming year.

Recommendations for next school year is to keep Panago as a vendor once a month and then alternate one other time a month for a total of 2 hot lunches per month.

We will also be moving the online ordering system to our own webpage and discontinue use of Hotlunches.net. A Paypal account will be set up again in September to process online all payments for hot lunch and other fundraisers. Lastly, we recommended to budget approximately \$100 for costs incurred by the volunteer who runs the hot lunch program. These expenses are paper, labels, and printer ink.

COMPOSTING

We partner with the City of Fort Saskatchewan to deliver a composting program for the whole school. The program was rolled out to every classroom in September after a pilot project in 2019 and then a pause due to the pandemic. A keen group of grade 4 students manage the program. It has been a success and a source of pride for the grade 4 class. The Fort Record profiled the school and our composting program in an article on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

The Hot Lunch program supports the cost of composting in the school. The total cost of composting materials for 2021/2022 was \$15.99 on bags. This is a lower than average cost due to the use of already purchased bags as well as donated bags from parents. We found the estimated cost of the bags will be around \$70.00 in the future years.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Demonstrating support for the Ecole Parc teachers and staff has historically been a high priority for the school council, and that has continued to be a key focus emphasized more with pandemic. In addition to the yearly \$100 stipend that has been provided to teachers for classroom resources, additional "acts of gratitude" were performed randomly throughout the school year. Staff were provided with gifts baskets of sweet treats as well as some classroom essentials (pens and post-it notes) for valentines day as a well as some treats for staff meetings. School council purchased an ice machine for the staff room. Every year school council hosts a staff luncheon. Although it is typically held around education week, this year the event was delayed until the end of the school year to accommodate for Ramadan and to ensure best pandemic practices were followed. This years' event was catered by The Sandwich Factory as we hope to celebrate our amazing staff while also supporting local small business.

For the 2021-2022 school year, staff were invited to engage in a survey evaluating activities and acts of gratitude that have previously been executed by school council. Staff were encouraged to provide feedback regarding what has been beneficial and what they would like to see changed or eliminated. 21 out of the 32 staff provided feedback for a response rate of 66%. Items to enhance learning through play such a board games and puzzles (particularly resources that can be used to support in-door recesses), and the staff luncheon were the most well received. Our school council hopes to build on this feedback as we look towards planning for next year.

ASCA CONFERENCE

This year ACSA conference was attended by Vice Chair Amanda Shand with the support of EIPS. The focus on resiliency, inclusivity and expanding learning beyond the physical classroom resonated well the current goals of Ecole and the Ecole parc school council as well continue to support outdoor learning through the outdoor classroom, mud kitchen and most recently side walk stencils. The Ecole Parc school council continues to be a strong advocate of the school's commitment to learning as it relates to tradition First nation, Metis and Inuit teaching as well as Francophone culture.

Resources provided at this year's conference have been compiled into a resource bank that has been made available to all council members for further discussion.

MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, May 13th we hosted an outdoor family movie night and party on our playground that was such a success it may become an annual event. The idea for the event came from our principal, Dan Verhoeff, and was originally to be done in the Fall when the days are shorter. But Covid had other plans and so we had to reschedule to this May. The School Council helped coordinate a few activities to round out the movie night as a party. Karaoke, a candy table, and a front row seat draw were added to the movie and three food truck plans already established by Dan and Shelley Boswell, our vice principal. The weather cooperated, the movie was excellent (Sing 2), we had a fantastic turn out by our families, and it was a very fun evening for all.

SPIRIT WEAR

Supporting the enhancement of school spirit has been a focus of school council the last few years. We want our staff and families to be proud Grizzlies! Spirit wear is one of the ways we foster Grizzly pride. This year we gave families the opportunity to order Spirit Wear on two occasions, Fall and Spring. It is a fundraiser for us and generated \$1400 for the school. The Fall order was significantly larger than the Spring. Two recommendations for next year are – simplify the number of items offered and only run the event early in the Fall.

COMMUNICATIONS

For a few years we have been adding more and more information to the school website regarding our activities and events. It was not always the best platform to work with and required a lot of our school secretary's time. With an audit this year that mandated staff were no longer allowed to handle any money on behalf of school council fundraisers we finally made the big move to online payments. This move precipitated the development of our own webpage linked to the school website. www.epeschoolcouncil.com. Our meeting agendas and minutes remain on the main school website but everything else is on our new webpage which will be managed by a parent volunteer, typically the board Secretary or a dedicated communications coordinator.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (attached): The financial statement attached is not the final statement, as the reporting period will end on August 31, 2022.

School Council Chair

Date

Fundraising Society Treasurer

Date