

Elmdale School Council Chair Activity Report 2018-2019

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This past year was an especially busy year for Elmdale Council as in addition to our traditional duties we were also preparing for our temporary move to Century Public School. This is all in anticipation of renovations in the main building and the construction of our new addition, ensuring that our beloved Elmdale is brought into the 21st Century.

We also welcomed our new principal Isabelle Flannigan along with our returning Vice Principal Monique Sack.

Our dedicated returning members continued to play a large role on council leading committees such as Fundraising, Communication and Healthy Earth. As in years past, 2018-19 we welcome a large influx of excellent new members who brought fresh ideas and insight to council discussions, events and activities.

As in 2017-18 we approved the school's wish list for council funded items and activities early in the school year, once again ensuring appropriate funds were earmarked as needed and plans could be made well in advance.

Fundraising of course played a very important role in our school and parent council's mission. Noteworthy ventures included (as in years past) Fun Fair, Bookfest (a record setting year in number of books donated!), Dance-A-Thon and of course Hot Lunches.

Activities and initiatives covered a wide variety of subjects areas including pixilation (Pixelart) workshops, dance and yoga classes, art in the hallway, Remembrance Day assembly (pianist), movie night and additional grow tower. Through the support of Council and Mr. Pete Laughton we were able to provide support for Tier 2 sports. This allowed 72 students to participate in competitive sports that otherwise may not have had the opportunity. An additional grow tower was purchased.

The biggest focus and challenge for 2018-19 was to continue the momentum for the renovation and addition project. Discussions and consultation began as early as September 2018 which came on the heels of the funding announcement that had occurred earlier in 2018. The challenges and complex issues surrounding the addition and renovation occupied much of our energy and time throughout the year. We worked to obtain information and provide any information to council and parents whenever possible and also provide feedback to the board and consultants. An information session about the proposed renovation was held in March and we hope to ensure more information sessions are held for Elmdale families in the coming year. We also assisted the OCDSB and advocated for Elmdale during the summer in order to try to accelerate matters wherever possible.

Toward the end of the 2018-19 council year, additional challenges were brought on due to some unwanted delays in construction. It remains a priority for Elmdale Council to have Elmdale open for our kids once again as soon as is reasonably possible.

All things considered, it was another successful year for Elmdale Council. We remain thankful to our community of families and local business without which our activities simply would not exist. We are especially thankful to our engaged and enthusiastic volunteers, staff, Principal and Vice Principal who donate time, energy, ideas and spirit to our school. Looking forward to 2019-20!