

Connaught School Council

2018-2019 Annual Report

Connaught School Council would like to thank the staff at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board for its collaboration to renew the schoolyard at Connaught Public School. In September 2019, we opened the revitalized schoolyard which now features a new turf playing field as well as newly naturalized play and education areas. This opening marked the pinnacle of our Schoolyard Renewal Project, which also included the purchase of the new kindergarten play structure in 2017 and the Nature Education Centre in 2018.

Connaught School Council raised \$34,800¹ in 2018-2019. With a school population of 380 students, this amounts to about \$91 per student.

70% of raised funds went to the schoolyard renewal project, and the remaining 30% went towards:

- Reimbursing teacher expenses,
- Installing whiteboards in classrooms,
- Subsidizing field trips,
- Purchasing French reading material, and
- Supporting the Grade 6 leaving ceremony and overnight trip to MacSkimming Education Centre.



Thank you to OCDSB and community supporters for our wonderful new schoolyard!



Connaught parent volunteers on moving day

Connaught School Council's other major accomplishment of 2018-2019 was its advocacy to the City of Ottawa on the sudden closing of the Forward Family Shelter, located in our school catchment area. In December 2018, School Council representatives wrote to the Mayor, and appeared on CBC radio and television, in order to pressure the City to provide permanent housing for the affected families and allow more time for to make moving arrangements. Connaught School Council also collected and moved donations to fully furnish two of the affected families into their new homes.

In June 2019, Connaught School Council hosted its inaugural "Lawn It for Connaught" lawn-bowling fundraising event, which raised almost \$8,000. Due to its tremendous success, we plan to continue the event as an annual tradition, complementing our other on-going fundraisers and community-building events: pizza days, Scholastic Book Fair, citrus sales, movie nights, multi-cultural potluck, pancake breakfast, Stone Soup Café, and end-of-year BBQ.

¹ This amount includes grants/payments that went directly to the OCDSB account, and therefore does not exactly match the School Council Year-End Financial Reporting that only accounts for amounts that go through the School Council bank account.

Composition of Connaught School Council in 2018-2019:

Executive

Chair: Sophia Wong

Treasurer: Laura Hurst

Secretary: Melissa Black

Staff

Principal: Caretta Williams

Vice-Principal: Minou Morley

Teacher Representative: Michelle Richardson

Members

Schoolyard Renewal Committee:

Karen Monaghan

Kerry Barnes

Karina Roman

Catherine Pirie

Pizza Coordinator: Brian Cockburn

Winter Family Feast Coordinators: Jennifer Jolliffe and Heidi Feenstra

Stone Soup Committee: Danica Rogers, Kimberley Senf, Heather Hammond

Lawn It for Connaught Coordinators: Cynthia Shelswell and Darlene Moll

BBQ Coordinator: Kirsten Hanna

Members-at-Large: Mark Scrivens, Frances Otarola, Sejal Mehra