

Connaught School Council

2019 - 2020 Annual Report

Connaught School Council shifted focus inwards during the 2019-2020 school year. Following the successful completion of Phase 3 of the School Yard Renewal Project, the Council spent much of its efforts on the interior of the school, with the creation of an Art Beautification Committee, initial planning for a Library Learning Commons, and a Teacher/Student wish list. Formal School Council activities paused with the school's closure in March 2020.

Fundraising

Connaught School Council started the year with a balance of approximately \$26,000 and raised \$9,724 from September 2019 - March 2020. With a school population of 380 students, this amounts to about \$25 per student. Fundraising efforts were impacted by the labour disruptions over the winter, which forced the cancellation of some pizza days, the pancake breakfast and movie night. With the school closure from March, our most profitable fundraisers, Pizza Day and Lawn-It for Connaught, were cancelled.

Spending

The School Council spent a portion of its reserves along with all fundraised funds on the following:

- Reimbursing teacher expenses
- Interior improvements:
 - a contribution towards a new water fountain/bottle refilling station
 - 13 Wobble Stools
 - 2 Art Carts
- Sports equipment:
 - Set of school jerseys for the intramural sporting events
 - Outdoor balls
 - 15 volleyballs
- Investing in technology through purchasing:
 - 10 Chromebooks
 - 4 Tech Tubs for storage of 32 Chromebooks
 - 2 DVD Players
 - 2 Microphones
 - 6 Beebots (primary coding tool)
 - 75 Headphone sets for junior grades
- Outdoor weather station
- Modified Grade 6 Leaving ceremony, with contribution towards the graduation present of a Connaught hoodie, gift card to Merry Dairy and "Connaught Grad 2020" cookie.

A number of spending initiatives, related to further indoor and outdoor improvements, were postponed until further notice.

Initiatives

The School Council hosted a successful Multicultural Potluck/Winter Family Feast in November which was attended by a large number of Connaught families.

In addition, the School Council arranged volunteers for the Scholastic Book Fair, held during Parent/Teacher interviews.

Connaught School Council formed an after school Tech Club, led by a parent volunteer. The club enabled participants to expand their programming skills beyond Scratch to hardware coding using Microbits. The program was held for one hour each week for five weeks; it hosted three cohorts of 8 to 12 of junior grade students.

Composition of Connaught School Council in 2019-2020:

Executive

- Chair: Sophia Wong
- Treasurer: Laura Hurst
- Treasurer-in-Training: Andrea Villeneuve
- Secretary: Melissa Black

Staff

- Principal: Caretta Williams (until December 2019), Kimberly Simpson
- Vice-Principal: Minou Morley
- Teacher Representative: Michelle Richardson

Members

- Art Beautification Committee:
 - Lindsay Machinski
 - Kerry Barnes
 - Elizabeth Eagen
 - Catherine Pirie
 - Melissa Black
- Events
 - Winter Family Feast Coordinators: Jennifer Jolliffe and Heidi Feenstra

- Stone Soup Committee (cancelled)
 - End-of-Year BBQ Coordinator (cancelled): Kirsten Hanna
- Fundraising
 - Pizza Day Coordinator: Brian Cockburn, Lindsay Machinski
 - Movie Night: Karen Monaghan
 - Wreaths: Melissa Black
 - Citrus: Mark Scrivens
 - Pancake Breakfast (cancelled): Sophia Wong
 - Lawn It for Connaught Coordinators (cancelled): Cynthia Shelswell and Darlene Moll
- Members-at-Large: Frances Otarola, Sejal Mehra, Callie Sanderson