

Connaught P.S. School Council

2020 - 2021 Annual Report

For the 2020-2021 school year, Connaught School Council maintained a virtual existence with all meetings and fundraising activities held online. No community use of the school was permitted, and thus the Council held none of its regular events. Instead the School Council focused on supporting the school community via dedicated communications through the pandemic, including support during a school COVID-19 outbreak. Parents continued to support activities such as an innovative graduation ceremony, fundraising to support the increasingly popular “food bins” in classrooms, and efforts to maintain the Nature Education Centre and gardens with produce donated to the Parkdale Food Centre.

Fundraising

Connaught School Council started the year with a balance of approximately \$16,363 and raised \$4,790 over the school year. With a school population of 316 students, this amounts to about \$15 per student, a decrease of \$10 per student from last year. This decrease was largely due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fundraising efforts; a number of traditional and the most profitable fundraisers (eg. Citrus, Pizza Days, Lawn It for Connaught), could not be held. Of the traditional fundraisers, only the Holiday Wreath sale went ahead.

The cancelled fundraisers were replaced by Bridgehead Coffee and Wheeler’s Maple Syrup sales. School Council also increased online fundraising, and started a number of commission based fundraisers, including Flip Give, Chapters Indigo Online, and Plantables; Mabel’s Labels continued to be a steady source of income. Parents were also extremely generous with direct donations for the graduating class.

Spending

The School Council spent nearly \$8,900, comprising a portion of its reserves along with all fundraised funds on the following:

- Reimbursing teacher expenses
- Reimbursing staff COVID Goggle purchases
- Sports equipment:
 - Bins to quarantine classes’ assigned equipment
 - Pool noodles for physically distanced play
 - Luv2Groove virtual dance party
- Investing in technology through purchasing:
 - 5 iPads
 - iPad accessories
 - 2 Document Cameras
- Garden supplies for the Nature Education Centre
- Books in honour of departing teachers

- Thank you gift cards for all staff
- Modified Graduating Classes Leaving ceremony: gift card to Merry Dairy, Grad Cake Pops, Photobook, Sticker, Balloons, and contribution towards the graduation present of a Connaught hoodie
- Connaught Colts Banner for photo backdrop at graduation, sporting events, etc.

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

Initiatives

As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the School Council was unable to organize any in-person events or volunteer opportunities within the school.

School Council provided support in organizing bursaries for the breakfast program. School Council supported the graduation for all Connaught grads and created a Connaught Family Directory, as in previous years.

Composition of Connaught School Council in 2020-2021:

Executive

- Co-Chairs: Cynthia Shelswell, Gisele Salazar
- Treasurer: Andrea Villeneuve
- Secretary: Allison MacLachlan
- Fundraising Coordinator: Sabrina Sengupta

Staff

- Principal: Kimberly Simpson
- Vice-Principal: Minou Morley
- Teacher Representative: Michelle Richardson

Members

- Fundraising
 - Holiday Wreaths: Laura Hurst, Melissa Black
 - Plantables: Laura Hurst, Catherine Pirie, Andrea Villeneuve
 - Coffee and Maple Syrup: Sabrina Sengupta
 - Advertising and social media support: Julie Mayrand and family

- Graduating Class Celebration: Laura Hurst, Catherine Pirie, Sejal Mehra, Lee-Ann Zaneli, Maria Mottillo