

Connaught P.S. School Council

2022-23 Annual Report

For the 2022-23 school year, Connaught School Council resumed monthly in-person meetings in the school library with simultaneous streaming via Google Meet. Council held a virtual meeting with the school community to set priorities for the year which included: (1) Advancing the Learning Commons Project, (2) resuming regular in-person events, and (3) supporting our students with school wish list items.

Fundraising

Connaught School Council started the year with a balance of approximately \$18,000 and raised \$37,000 over the school year. With a school population of 378 students, this amounts to about \$98.64 per student, an increase of \$38.50 per student from last year.

Our primary regular source of revenue to fund council priorities was the bi-weekly school pizza day raising \$11,000. Funds raised via pizza sales were allocated for the Learning Commons Project.

Council re-ran the traditional holiday wreath and Bridgehead coffee sale in late November raising \$1860. Funds were directed towards school wish list items. We also sold Bridgehead coffee in March to complement the Purdys Chocolate Easter Campaign raising \$820.

The Spirit Wear sale ran again in December, raising \$430 for school wish list items.

Lawn it for Connaught - an adults-only lawn bowling parent-organized event in support of the school - returned as a major fundraiser for the Learning Commons project, raising over \$11,000 for the initiative.

Our End-of-Year BBQ raised \$1800 this year.

School Council also continued with online fundraising with three commission-based fundraisers: Plantables (in support of the Nature Education Centre), Mabel's Labels, and a December Purdys Chocolates sale (Grade 6 trip to MacSkimming and Leaving Ceremony).

Council also applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Hintonburg Economic Development Committee to purchase a new tricycle for the Developmental Disabilities Program class.

Spending

School Council spent over \$39,000, comprising the majority of fundraised funds on the following:

- Reimbursing teacher expenses
- Skate sharpening for 50 pairs, 30 skate guards and 14 new helmets
- Inclusive books for the school library
- Items to create sensory boards for students using the school's body break rooms
- Items for the kinder yard:
 - Sand toys (vehicles and buckets) and plastic animals for outdoor play
- Technology:
 - 3 Document Cameras
 - 67 Logitech Headphones
 - 30 5-way Headphone splitters

- Shed supplies and equipment for the Nature Education Centre
- Staff Appreciation lunch
- Learning Commons project

The unspent funds raised this year will be directed towards the Learning Commons, with another final major purchase of technology planned for September. Any surplus once the Commons project is completed is intended for the Yard Renewal fund, as the structure in the main yard is nearly 23 years old. We anticipate replacement will be required in the next few years.

Initiatives

Learning Commons Project: With the design for the space solidified and board funded improvements (new flooring, removal of old circulation desk) in place in September the bulk of the effort for this phase of the project was led by parent Elizabeth Eagen who facilitated the selection and ordering of furniture items purchased via board approved vendors as funding became available. Thanks to the success of Lawn it for Connaught 2022 and Pizza Days, the target for furniture for the space was achieved. Lawn it for Connaught 2023's target was to raise the necessary funds to round out the technology for the space and any final purchases that will be made in September to complete the project.

Skate collection refurbishment: At the request of the school administration, council helped with the organization of the school's skate and helmet collection as students were returning to Tom Brown area for the first time since 2019. Two volunteers, Julie Mayrand and Dayna Guy, conducted an inventory of the skates and culled any that were deemed unsuitable for school use. Nearly all of the helmets were expired and needed to be replaced. Council arranged to have the 50 pairs of skates sharpened, purchased skate guards to ensure safe transportation to and from the rink and purchased new helmets in a range of sizes for student use.

Fundraiser for bereaved student: In June, 2023, we learned that a parent member of our community had passed away unexpectedly. Council organized a Go Fund Me campaign that was shared with the school community to raise funds for funeral expenses and to support the bereaved student. The community raised \$4,200 and the funds were transferred to the family.

In-person events: Council organized 3 movie nights (October, March and May) that were all sell-out or near-sell-out events. We also held our annual end of year BBQ in June that was well attended by the school community

Nature Education Centre: Trellises, a hose, seed potatoes and other gardening related items were purchased in support of the Nature Education Centre this year. Our Plantables campaign raised \$390 as well as earned the school a free garden kit (featuring 36 seedlings) to plant in the raised beds. Council organized families to help water and weed the garden over the summer months.

Composition of Connaught School Council in 2022-2023:

Executive

- Chair: Julie Mayrand
- Vice-Chair: Zoe Lomer
- Treasurer: Andrea Villeneuve
- Secretary: Gisele Salazar
- OCASC rep: Brian Chow
- Grade 6 champions: Cynthia Sheswell and Darlene Moll

Staff

- Principal: Kimberly Simpson
- Vice-Principal: Minou Morley
- Teacher Representatives: Louisa Battistelli (Sept), Arnaud Montagny & Paula Copeland (Oct), Sophie DesMarais (Nov), Astrid Johnson and Remi Lachance (Jan), Shelby McEachern (Feb), Marie-Eve Larocque & Chantale Belleville (May)

Members

- Fundraising
 - Pizza Day coordinator: Matthew Villeneuve
 - Holiday Wreaths & Coffee: Andrea Villeneuve and Julie Mayrand
 - Grade 6 Purdys Chocolate: Darlene Moll and Cynthia Sheswell
 - Spirit Wear: Zoe Lomer
 - Plantables: Julie Mayrand, Andrea Villeneuve

- Coffee and Purdys Chocolate: Andrea Villeneuve and Julie Mayrand
- Lawn it for Connaught Organizing Committee: Cynthia Sheswell, Darlene Moll, Tobin Kelly, Steve Alexander, Marianne Alexander, Thomas Dunne, Joanna Courtney, Kimberly Senf, Tim Willis, Julie Mayrand, Róisín Osborne, Andrea Villeneuve. Over 15 community members helped to run the event.
- Learning Commons Sub-Committee:
 - Kimberly Simpson, Minou Morley, Julie Mayrand, Elizabeth Eagen (parent), Kimberly Senf (parent), Judith Kemp (librarian), Shelby McEachern (librarian)
- Events:
 - Halloween Movie Night organizers: Gisele Salazar, Zoe Lomer, Andrea Villeneuve, Julie Mayrand and Jason Mah. 10+ volunteers helped at the event
 - March Movie Night organizers: Gisele Salazar, Zoe Lomer, Andrea Villeneuve, Julie Mayrand and Jason Mah. 10+ volunteers helped at the event
 - May Movie Night organizers: Gisele Salazar, Zoe Lomer, Andrea Villeneuve, Julie Mayrand and Jason Mah. 10+ volunteers helped at the event
 - End of year BBQ: Zoe Lomer (Event Coordinator), Julie Mayrand (volunteer coordinator). 30+ community members helped set up, run the event and clean up afterwards