

2019/2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL UPDATE

WHAT A YEAR!!

June 2020

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Dear Parents and School Community:

What a school year 2019-2020 has turned out to be. Last September we started the year looking forward to all the exciting activities and events that school council was planning. Unfortunately events within our province and the world affected the entire school year. Nevertheless, school council did offer some fantastic events that the students, staff and families all enjoyed.

First we would like to send a HUGE thank you to all Crossland staff, families and friends. Despite all the challenges this year, the Crossland community showed its strength and commitment to each other. School council would not be able to do what it does without the support of all Crossland staff. Thank you.

School council is comprised of parents, guardians, teachers and our principal. The school council's primary function is to act as an advisory board to the principal and York Region District School Board. Our council helps to make decisions regarding school policies, raise safety concerns, and organize and run school/community events. Council volunteers work collaboratively with school staff to establish the best learning environment for our students and we actively build community and bring families together.

2019/2020 School Council

Amanda Ciambella	Chair
Lindsey Stanford	Secretary
Dana Tolles	Treasurer
Kristy Rushton	Member
Trevor Pratt	Member
Michelle Armstrong	Member
Jenn Farley	Member
Alan Koo	Member
Avisa Mollahoseini	Member
Karen Connery	Teacher representative
James Flynn	Principal

The following pages are a year-end summary of our initiatives and financial summary. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. Your feedback is important! And if you want to volunteer on the council or at an event, we'd love to have you!

We hope you have a wonderful and safe summer with your family.

2019/2020 School Council Initiatives

School council both organizes and participates in various activities within Crossland and our larger community throughout the school year. Proceeds from fundraising events were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. The following is a summary of our events and activities.

Fall Mums Sale – School Council held Crossland's second annual Fall Mums fundraiser in early September. This was a wonderful fundraiser that raised just over \$2000. Delivered by Bradford Greenhouses, we offered two different sizes of gorgeous Mums in four colours. Students sold these planters to family and neighbours. Grade 8 students unloaded all the mums and with the help of some wonderful parent volunteers, all the orders were picked up on a Tuesday after school.

Fall Spooktacular Dance – On October 31st students from every grade danced with DJ Coach Steve while he played the music that they wanted to hear. Students and volunteers were encouraged to wear either fall colours or a costume. School council volunteers decorated the gym, sold food concessions and set up a swag table.

Winter Gear Swap – In November school council organized a Winter Gear Swap. This was our first time doing this event and it was a great success. Families were able to drop off extra snowsuits, coats, boots or general winter gear that were crowding up their closets. Volunteers then put all the items out for display for families to drop by and take whatever they needed. This was a wonderful environmentally friendly event to reuse items of clothing that might have ended up in a landfill. Any remaining items were donated to the Newmarket Lions Club "Coats for Kids" program.

Festive Shop – Our third annual Festive Shop was held in early December and our students simply love this event. Over \$2800 was raised during this two day event where Crossland families donate new or gently used items that are sold at the Festive Shop. All students have the opportunity to visit the Exploratorium (library) to peruse the sale and shop for gifts for their family and friends. Items were priced \$1, \$2, \$3 or \$5. Festive Shop helps children with their critical math skills, encourages them to think of others and is environmentally conscious. Raffle prizes were also created by grouping quality items for which kids can purchase tickets. This event highlights the thoughtfulness and consideration of our kids and will make your heart grow.

Movie Night – School council organized a free family movie night in the gymnasium in November. Students and their families really enjoyed this community building event as we encouraged everyone to come, relax, meet with friends (and make new ones) and enjoy a family friendly movie. School council offered popcorn, snacks and drinks for purchase.

Treat Fridays! – School council volunteers sold popcorn and Smencils (those popular delicious smelling pencils) at morning recess on Fridays starting in October. New this year was “bring your own container” for popcorn. Students were encouraged to bring a reusable container to help reduce the amount of packaging going to waste. Our volunteers were impressed by the enthusiasm the students had for this new program. All foods sold on these Fridays met Ministry of Education nutritional standards. Raised over \$860!

Hot Lunch Program – Our lunch program this year included Astoria lunches on Mondays and Mr. Sub lunches on Fridays. Meals are pre-ordered and then delivered directly to the school for the kids to pick up. This program complements the current program where families can order a hot lunch through Kid’s Kitchen and/or Boston Pizza. All food offered meets Ministry of Education nutritional standards.

Meet the Teacher Night – School council volunteers were on hand at this staff organized event to meet parents and showcase the importance of what your school council does within the school. It’s a great opportunity for council members to meet families, get feedback about events/initiatives as well as get new ideas and suggestions.

Financial Summary for 2019/2020

Summary of funds raised through school council events and activities.

School Event / Fundraiser	
• Fall Mums	\$2,072.37
• Lunch Program (Sept-Mar)	\$6,764.75
• Festive Shop	\$2,845.25
• Event Concessions/Treat Sales	\$1,522.35
Total funds raised	\$13,204.72

Summary of how funds were allocated this year.

Allocated Funds	Allocated amount
• Music	\$2,000.00
• Forest of Reading	\$500.00
• RAZ Kids	\$1100.00
• Technology cost sharing	\$2,000.00*
• Projector for Gymnasium	\$7,198.10**
• Grade 8 Graduation Cupcakes	\$217.00
Total allocated funds	\$13,015.10

*Cost sharing program was placed on hold for 2019-2020. Funds have been held over for 2020-2021 school year.

**Portion of funds raised from previous year contributed to purchasing of projector. Not installed this year due to pandemic. Projector to be installed during 2020-2021 school year.

Highlights of School Council 2020/2021 Proposed Plan

- Continue research and planning for an outdoor learning classroom/front garden for teachers and students.
- Researching garden tower to be incorporated within the school building to promote and support education about healthy eating and living.
- Creating a “Parent Committee: Green Team” to create ideas and apply for grants for school initiatives.
- Allocation of funds to upgrade floor hockey protective pads and new equipment for intramural program.
- Allocating funds towards new and up-to-date technology.

Potential 2020/2021 Fundraising Goals

Please note that this list is not finalized until Fall 2020.

Draft – Allocation of Funds
Technology Sharing Program
RAZ Kids/Forest of Reading
Outdoor Classroom/Garden Tower
Music and Arts Program

Please join us at the school council meeting in October to provide input on fundraising initiatives and events. This is your chance to have a say on what your fundraising dollars support.

Reasons to Join School Council

Our school council is looking for help! You may not realize it but parent volunteers are essential to organizing and chaperoning our school council events and fundraisers. Without you, our council wouldn't be able to offer movie nights or Treat Fridays. We couldn't plan fundraisers that help our school buy Chrome books or iPads so your child doesn't have to bring one from home. The fall dance that our children love to attend cannot happen without volunteers.

When you do volunteer, you show your child that you are interested in their education and their "school life". You send them a positive message that school is important. You also show your child the importance of contributing to the larger community and how one person can make a difference.

How to Participate

There are lots of ways you can contribute.

1. *Join Council as a voting member.* Fill in a nomination form (distributed in September) and return to school before the first meeting. You can be a voting member, or a member with a specific elected position (i.e., Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.).
2. *Attend meetings as a non-member.* When you attend a meeting, you can suggest ideas, ask questions or raise an issue during the roundtable portion. (FYI – you can bring your kids to meetings and they can play in the library or we can arrange for supervision).
3. *Volunteer at one of our events.* If you only have an hour here and there, great – works for us! If you have one day a week that you can give, perfect – we'll take it! Volunteering at an event is the best way to see what's happening in the school and to get to know the kids your child goes to school with.

For More Information

- Like and follow our school council Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CPSCougars
- Send an email to school council at crosslandschoolcouncil@gmail.com
- Watch for school council news in the weekly school newsletter, The Week Ahead.
- Attend the first meeting in October.