

Engagement Matters

Parent, Family and Community Engagement (PEAC)

Advisory Committee Newsletter



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Learning continues, even during a pandemic. Schools play a critical role in supporting students' learning, as well as children's emotional health and overall well-being. Throughout the pandemic, YRDSB staff, teachers, students and their families showed resilience and an incredible ability to overcome many challenges. With this experience, we are hopeful that together we will be able to make the most of this upcoming year and enjoy it to the fullest!

- School Council Forums
- PEAC Meetings
- Chalk the Walk
- Supportive Resources for New Families
- Fundraising Ideas
- Contacting Us
- Policy Review

Save the date...

School Council Forums - please save the date for your respective area. Events run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More details will be posted on the [PEAC website](#) closer to the date, and shared with your school administrators and school council chairs.

North/Georgina	Wednesday, November 3, 2021
North/Newmarket	Monday, November 8, 2021
East	Wednesday, November 10, 2021
West	Monday, November 15, 2021
Central	Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Join our PEAC Meetings

PEAC meetings are public events, and all are welcome to attend. Do you and your school council have a positive practice that you would like to share with our Board and other school councils? Let us know, and you may have an opportunity to speak at one of our upcoming meetings, or be featured in a future edition of Engagement Matters.

2021

September 23, 2021

November 25, 2021

December 9, 2021

(Joint EIAC and PEAC meeting)

2022

January 20, 2022

March 10, 2022

May 19, 2022

Chalk the Walk

Chalk the Walk is a fun community event where people come together to write positive messages and draw pictures with a simple sidewalk chalk.

It is a low cost event because everyone can bring their own chalk. You can safely follow COVID protocols and social distance requirements by inviting students, staff and families to come throughout the day to avoid a large crowd.

Simply make a drawing and wait until the next day to see the smiles on everyone's face as they enter the building. It is very easy to organize. Just spread the word and watch the miracle happen!



Supporting New Families with a Family Ambassador Program

Each year, we welcome new families to our schools, and we can all relate to the feeling of when you are new to a school and there is so much unknown and uncertainty ahead. In addition, having English as your second language, or being a newcomer to Canada, can be a stressful time.

To help our new families, consider launching a Family Ambassador Program at your school. This program is aimed to connect families seeking support in the new community to families who are willing to give them that support. To do that, you will need to create a database to connect volunteers with new families and support the process.

Steps to creating a Family Ambassador Program

- Set up two Google forms (one for Ambassadors and one for the new families seeking support)
- Have a volunteer maintain a database of people and connect them to one another
- Include information about the program in the school information package, and promote it in your school newsletters
- Seek feedback on what is working and what is not, and adjust the program accordingly

Examples of the Forms

Use these forms to help guide you when setting up your program.

- [Ambassador Form](#)
- [New Family Form](#)



Fundraising During a Pandemic

Many schools engage in fundraising as a way to help enhance their students' academic experience. Fundraising during a pandemic may require some creative thinking, but it is still a fun and potentially profitable way to engage your school community. Here are some tips, ideas and guidelines to help you with your efforts.

Guidelines and tips...

- At this time, lunch programs are not permitted.
- If you are selling packaged goods, find vendors who can deliver the product directly to the consumer's home through the mail or a courier company.
- Remember that Public Health safety guidelines must be followed when planning and hosting a fundraiser or event.
- Guidelines to inform the school's fundraising plan and activities can be found in the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #676, School Fundraising and Administration of School Generated Funds

Fundraiser Ideas

Have a virtual Read-a-thon

Hold a technology fund drive

Setup a Mabel's Labels account for your school and receive a portion of the sales

Create a digital yearbook, cookbook or creative arts book

Host a virtual games night (bingo, trivia)

Plan a virtual walk, run and ride

Join an online fundraising program with a retail outlet, such as Chapters



Promote everyday essentials, such as detergent and socks, and receive a portion of the sales

Host an art night and sell kits from (art kits) or make your own

Start a Scholastic catalogue book sale

Help sprout a green thumb with the sale of fresh, local, organic vegetables for the garden with Plantables.ca

Be creative! Reach out to your school's staff and families for new and exciting ideas specific to your community.

You got this!

Best of luck with your fundraisers!



Communicating with School Councils and PEAC

Your voice matters, especially when it comes to your child's education. Finding ways to be involved, sharing your ideas, and learning more about how to support your child are just some of the ways that you can enhance your engagement with the school. Here are some access points to help you connect with your school council or PEAC. You may also contact your school office for information that is specific to your school council.

Who...	What...	How...
PEAC	Great for board-wide resources, Ministry documents, calendar of events, meeting links, newsletters, inspiring ideas	Email: leadership.development.engagement@yrdsb.ca Website: YRDSB PEAC Website Phone: 905-727-0022 ext. 3650 Twitter: @leadershipyrdsb Instagram: Id_yrdsb
School Councils	Great for activities and resources specific to your school, volunteering, staying up-to-date with your school community, sharing your ideas.	Email: "schoolname"@sc.yrdsb.ca Website: link on school's webpage

Supporting Policy Review

Policy #238, **Parent, Family and Community Engagement**, and Policy #262, **School Councils**, are currently under review, and we are asking for your feedback. Share your ideas and suggestions by following this link, [Policy Review and Feedback](#).