



Dear Robinson Family!

This is a time of year, when many in our community connect with family and, as we head into our two week winter break, we wanted to take this opportunity to connect with you, our JRPS family, by providing you with our first-ever School Council “Fall-In-Review”.

School Council has been busy trying to make a difference for students and families, and we wanted to provide you with an update on our activities. Please remember that all of you are welcome to join our meetings and take part in our activities.

We are so grateful for the contributions of our fellow parents and guardians to the school community and the support of our activities, events, and fundraisers! A lot is being wrapped up, and many exciting things are coming in the new year, and we wanted to keep you in the loop!

School Council's purpose is to provide a parent-community-school connection. We meet semi-regularly to hear from Principal Chin about what’s going on at the school; to give feedback from the community; to plan events, initiatives, and fundraisers; and be a parent/guardian/community voice in school affairs. We support the school through fundraising, running initiatives that support the school and community, volunteering our time, and planning and running events that engage students and families. **Our hope is that we all feel more connected to the school, engaged in the education of our kids, and connected to each other.**

We’ve Been Busy!

Council Members have been busy **sourcing donations** for both our Family Fun Night and Fun Fair in the form of gift cards and in-kind donations from several local businesses. The gift cards will be used for auctions and draws at both events. All proceeds will go directly to the school and our kids! Thank you to all Council Members who sourced gift cards and other donations.

A few members of School Council, along with non-council parents, have started meeting to plan our **Feb. 23 Family Fun Night**. **Our focus is mid-winter family fun for everyone**. This is an event you can come to with your family, order an optional pizza dinner, see a magic show, see and participate in martial arts demonstrations, get your face painted by student artists, purchase yummy treats, and do a variety of fun activities with your kids. There will also be a raffle for fun family-related prizes. There will be an entry fee to cover our costs; we will share more details about these activities and costs in the new year. If you would like to volunteer on the night of the event, please email Erin: james.robinson.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca. Those on the planning subcommittee are: Community members: Hayley and Sandy; and Council Members: Danielle, Sarah, Julie, Erin, and Mr. Chin.

The **Winter Plant fundraiser Fundraiser** ended on December 2nd. We raised over \$700 and will receive a pollinator garden from Vandermeer Nursery in the spring. Thank you to everyone who ordered and to community member Candice, for running this fundraiser.

We've also wrapped up our **JRPS Snowsuit Swap**. Families donated winter items that no longer fit, but were in good condition. JRPS families were then invited to request items. Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer was pleased to meet several of our families while delivering items to their homes. Ms. Lo, in the office, will hold on to several pairs of snow pants for kids who come in wet from recess. Unrequested items will be donated to the local Good Will at Hwy 48 and 16th. Thank you to Jennifer for planning and running the Snowsuit Swap and to Mylisia for helping sort items. Erin helped with advertising and the Google Form.

Our **Meet and Greet**, held during our school open house on October 11th, was a great opportunity for Council Members to connect with the parent community. It was wonderful to be able to meet more of the JRPS parent community and to ask for you to **"give an hour of your time this year"**. We had 32 people sign up to be notified of volunteer opportunities and we have had new volunteers join the Snack Team, help out Mrs. Truscott in the library, and work on planning Family Fun Night. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer with the school, fill out our google form (<https://forms.gle/aYn6ZnqRWGqdsXmX9>) or email james.robinson.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca.

Our **FlipGive Drive** is also up and running. Be sure to join our team to do your online shopping. We are encouraging the community to join our team. Purchases made between now and Jan. 8th will go into a draw for gift cards. Join our team: <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=RG3KQJ>. All proceeds go towards our school, Sarah (our Secretary and Equity Coordinator) and Erin (Chair) have been running this FlipGive drive.

We hope you are enjoying the lunch programs at school. School Council has been responsible for the **sub lunches** from Subway, on Mondays. We look forward to continuing to offer this program throughout the school year. School Council member Mylisia (with help from Jennifer) has also been going in on Wednesdays to help distribute pizza lunches. Thank you to Arsalan, our Fundraising Coordinator, for coordinating with Subway.

Our **OPAL Committee Liaison**, Jeanette, has been attending regular meetings of the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Committee to help champion meaningful outdoor play. She has also been crafting short educational messages for the email blast each week. Jeanette worked very hard to put together a Gardening Team to work on weeding the Eco Trail, to prepare it for repainting in the spring. We hope you will consider coming out to garden with us in the spring. Jeanette has also secured an in-kind donation for learning trail painting in spring 2023. It is valued at approximately \$1200, meaning that repeating cost will not come out of school funds.

The new **Family Ambassador Program** is coming in the new year. This is an opportunity to pair up new families to JRPS with another family, so they can ask questions and be a connection in the community. Please look for more information in January. Thank you to Danielle (School Council Vice-Chair) for heading up this initiative.

Please keep reading our **weekly updates** that come out in Mr. Chin's email blasts. They come from your School Council Chair, Erin.

Looking ahead:

We are looking forward to welcoming all families back after the winter break and to continue building on our momentum with the following planned events:

- A Terra Cotta cookie dough fundraiser (planned by Parvis)
- The launch of the Family Ambassador Program
- Family Fun Night, Feb. 23 from 5-8pm
- The next General School Council Meeting, Feb. 6 from 6:30-8 at the school, with a hybrid option
- Forming a Grad Committee

On behalf of School Council, we would like to wish you a happy and safe winter break and a happy holidays to all those who celebrate at this time of year.

All the best,
School Council

This Fall-in-Review was written by Soraya (Communications Coordinator), and Erin (Chair), and Danielle (Vice Chair)