

Hopewell Avenue Public school

Parent Speak

2023
September

Important Dates

September 5

First day of School

September 14:

Teacher/Parent Night

September 15:

Deadline to submit interest in
School Council Position

September 19:

Final School Council Meeting
- ELECTIONS for new Council
members

October 6:

PA day

October 9:

Holiday

October 10:

First School Council meeting
of 2023/24

October 20:

Parent Wellness Meeting at
Hopewell

October 21:

Intake for Ski & Skate Sale

October 22:

Ski & Skate Sale AND Yard
Clean up

Welcome to 2023/2024

Hopewell's School Council welcomes everyone to an exciting new school year! We look forward to spending time with all members of our school community: parents, guardians, extended family, teachers, school staff, community organizations, and our students.

As a parent/guardian of a Hopewell student, you are already part of the school council! School Council is a perfect way to stay involved and have input into your child's education experience. We welcome all to become involved through ideas, time, expertise, and any other contributions one might make to benefit Hopewell's school community.

Over the past years, Hopewell School Council, along with the staff and students, discussed, organized and executed many activities and programs in the school. Even though the pandemic put many school council activities on hold, last year we saw a renewed enthusiasm for [School Council events](#), including Bike and Ski sales, yard improvements, transportation and safety around the school, Panago pizza and Subway lunches, monthly coffee chats on wellness, a parent evening out with OSCA, discussions with OCDSB school board trustees, and supporting the grade 8 leaving party.

Hopewell School Council plans to continue existing initiatives and establish new ones that benefit the school community, specifically our children. The school council meets monthly to discuss, plan, and implement programs. We generally meet during the school year on the third Tuesday of each month. Upcoming School Council meetings will be listed on the Hopewell Website (under the School Council drop-down menu), mentioned in the administration's email messages, announced on the Council's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/hopewellavepsschoolcouncil/), and agendas are sent through email reminders to those who sign up at a meeting. (continued on page 2)

Continued from page 1

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have met over Zoom; however, we are closing the 2022-23 School Council in person (we will do our best to offer a hybrid option as much as technology allows). All are welcome to attend! Whether you can make one meeting or ten, any involvement is appreciated. We also require volunteers for school events and the lunch program. If you cannot attend meetings but would like to volunteer or have questions for or about School Council, please e-mail sc-hopewellaveps@ocdsb.ca.

Finally, we would like to extend invitations to an important meeting that the School Council will host this month: our close-out meeting for the 2022-23 year and election night on Tuesday, September 19th, at 7-8:45 pm in the Hopewell Library. Council has four elected positions, including two co-chairs, a treasurer, and a secretary. If you are interested in holding one of these positions, please see further details below to nominate someone or yourself. We'll be happy to speak to anyone interested in joining the School Council before the first meeting and will also be present on Teacher-Parent night on Thursday, 14 September. The meeting on the 19th will also be an opportunity to learn about the School Council and join as a voting member, should you choose.

We look forward to seeing everyone and having an amazing year!

Our School Council

2022-23 Executive

Co-Chair: Petra Heitkamp
(open for re-election)

Co-Chair: **VACANT**

Treasurer: Nicola Calder
(outgoing)

Secretary: Claire Kerry
(open for re-election)

Mabel's Labels

We have a fundraising initiative that is super easy! Please check out Fundraising & Events to find out how you can contribute to Hopewell Council when you order labels through Mabel's Labels.

https://hopewellaveps.ocdsb.ca/school_council/fundraising_events



Have a say in your child's education!

ELECTED COUNCIL POSITIONS! If you'd like to take on an elected position on the Hopewell School Council (Co-chair, Treasurer or Secretary), please email nominations to the Principal (martina.sherwood@ocdsb.ca) with the subject line 'School Council nomination' by Friday, September 15th. Details about these positions may be found on the next pages. In addition, you will discover Committee information for which we'd welcome new volunteers!

COMMITTEES AND GENERAL MEMBERS: Anyone interested in School Council and volunteering on a committee with a School Council event or lunches, please contact: sc-hopewellaveps@ocdsb.ca. All are welcome to join School Council meetings; **the first is on September 19th!**

School Council Committees

Committees (as written in the Constitution, articles 38-43):

The council may establish committees as necessary. A motion at a council meeting establishes committees. The motion shall set out the committee's mandate. Membership on such committees shall not be restricted to council members, although each committee shall include at least one parent/guardian member of the council. Each committee shall have a chair or spokesperson, to be elected by the committee or appointed by the council, who shall act as the first contact for people outside the committee.

- Committees may be terminated by council vote and shall be deemed to expire at the end of each council term.
- Committees do not represent the council but may seek council approval of draft communications or other actions or representations.
- Committees may receive money from the council through procedures set by the council.
- Committees shall report to the council at least twice per council term.
- Committee meetings shall be open to the school community.



Our School Council Committees!

COMMITTEES

- **School Events** - community spirit and Fun: this committee plans events (at minimum one or two) for this school year that brings connection, joy and togetherness to the Hopewell School community (Ski/Bike sale, digital game night, or possibly outdoor events, etc.). Members have a representative role during the first week of school, 'teacher-parent' evenings, and host a 'welcome table' with School Council information. One or a few creative people would be welcome to lead initiatives and events, and we are looking to put together a list of volunteers to call upon in supporting events.
- **Grade 8 Leaving celebration:** a group of grade 7 parent volunteers has traditionally prepared the festivities for the grade 8 celebrations, including decorations of the gym and hallways, coffee/tea or lunch buffet, and additional entertainment. A group of at least four grade 7 parents (ideally more) would be asked to step forward as volunteers in coordinating and planning the grade 8 cohort 2024.
- **Yard Committee:** oversees the maintenance and care of the schoolyard trees and mulch and organizes Spring and Fall clean-up (leaves, weeding, etc). The renovations of the Kinder yard and the primary yard have been scheduled and fundraised by the School Council in the past years with the support of many dedicated parent volunteers.
- **School Lunch and Pizza Day coordination:** has had a successful year in 2022/23. We are preparing to offer Pizza Fridays, a possible 2nd lunch day (under exploration), and Mazzola as a service to parents. The Pizza Day and added lunch day requires one/two coordinators and, at a minimum, six volunteers per Pizza Day (Person with day-time availability during lunch hours).
- **Budget Committee:** is in charge of proposing a budget for the respective School Council year. The Treasurer leads the committee and provides financial support for the School Council year vision, including fundraising needs and suggestions.
- **Communications:** to ensure the engagement of the wider community in the School Council, we must communicate key messages and takeaways from Council meetings. Reporting to the community about how School Council money is being spent (that has been raised, for example, through pizza) is important for accountability and maintaining continuous support. Currently, School Council mostly communicates via the Administration's weekly message and through the website and Facebook page.

REPRESENTATIVES

- **Grade representatives** are the ears to the ground of what happens in the respective classes/ grades. They bring up any issues that require attention beyond the class-specific level and are relevant to be raised in School Council (this role does take more than an hour per month in addition to school council attendance). They will regularly reach out to at least five parents in their grade (range of different classes) to poll ideas, hear stories and 'keep the ear to the ground.' Grade representatives develop an engagement plan together at the start of the year.
- **Teacher representative:** One of Hopewell's teachers represents staff during School Council meetings and reports monthly on updates and relevant information.
- **OCASC representative:** The person who attends OCASC meetings and represents Hopewell Ave School Council, called the External Representative (OCASC Rep), shall: i) Attend OCASC and/or other meetings on behalf of the council and speak for the council at such meetings (when necessary or applicable); ii) provide to council an oral and/or written report of OCASC and/or other meetings; iii) act as the council's link to OCASC and to other organizations with purposes similar to the council's.
- **Wellness representative:** takes part in the school Safe Caring and Wellness program on behalf of the School Council and brings back relevant information. In coordination with the Safe Caring and Wellness program, the representative proposes information, material, speaking opportunities, events etc., for the School Council to disseminate to the Hopewell community. Last year, we held monthly Parent Wellness Coffee Chats and an evening out for Parents!

Ski & Skate Sale



Mark your calendars! The sale will be Sunday, October 22nd (intake on Saturday).

We will also be cleaning up the schoolyard.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for support to run our annual Ski & Skate sale and Yard Clean Up, well as with our weekly lunch programs!

If you'd like to volunteer, please email sc-hopewellaveps@ocdsb.ca

Contact Information:

@ sc-hopewellaveps@ocdsb.ca

613.239.2348

https://hopewellaveps.ocdsb.ca/school_council

@hopewellavepsschoolcouncil

Hot/cold lunches are back!

This is a HUGE fundraiser for our school (and it means that we don't make lunches)! Details will be provided at the beginning of the school year.



Parent Q&A

What is the role of the School Council?

The OCDSB has an excellent document that outlines the Purpose, Roles & Responsibilities and guidelines of our School Council:

“Education is a partnership involving parents, families, students, teachers, principals, community, and school boards. As educational collaborators, School Councils provide advice on school matters to improve student achievement and strengthen the important relationship between schools, families, and their communities. All families have an equitable place in our schools' communities and are welcome to participate in the School Council.”

To learn more about the OCDSB School Council Roles & Responsibilities, guidelines and Procedures, please visit the School Council Resource guide webpage

https://www.ocdsb.ca/our_schools/school_council