



Annual Report 2016-17

About CVES Council

Castor Valley Elementary School Council (CVESC) is a group of parents, teachers and administrative staff, who, through active participation, strive to improve student achievement and create a positive and fun learning environment; while fostering communication between parents, the school and the school board.

We are a dedicated and caring group of volunteers who work together to plan and coordinate a variety of programs, events and fundraisers,

Note from the Co-Chairs of 2016-17 and Chair of 2017-18

Thank you to all parents, teachers, staff, administration and students who participated in Council last year and to our amazing parent and staff volunteers who participated throughout the year in a variety of ways including:

- driving students to and from various special events such as music concerts and sporting events
- assisting classroom teachers with photocopying and the preparation of classroom materials
- reading with students
- caring for the school gardens
- running the alternative lunch and milk programs
- planning and organizing Christmas Shopping, Fun Night, Talentfest Career Day and Movie Nights
- hosting the Staff Appreciation Lunch
- hosting the Student Appreciation Lunch
- helping to supervise students on field trips and during Terry Fox National School Run Day and Jump Rope for Heart
- Painting the Library

Meetings

CVESC held 7 meetings in the 2016-17 school year on the following dates: September 15, October 20, November 17, January 19, February 16, April 20, and May 18. All of our meetings were held in the school library and were open to the public. Thank you to all parents who served as a member of Council, as you helped influence the direction of our school community.

Council Members

Our 2016-2017 Council was elected on September 15, 2016 and was made up of parents, teachers, staff and administration including:

Co-Chairs – **Cynara Corbin and Melanie Ritchie**

Vice-Chair – **Lesley Parker**

Co-Secretaries – **Jenni Bell and Tracy Lager**

Treasurers – **Tina Clarmo and Tara Starzmoski**

OCASC Rep – **Alka Moorjani**

Community Liaison – **Cynara Corbin**

Movie Night Coordinator- **Tamara Legris**

Communications Coordinator – **Melanie Ritchie**

Fun Night Coordinator-**Cynara Corbin**

Inclusive, Safe and Caring Schools Committee Coordinators: **Elli Kapsalis and Melanie Ritchie**

Volunteer Coordinator – **Lesley Parker**

Christmas Sale Coordinators-**Kiera Lennox and Maryam Sugrue Foubert**

Christmas Float Coordinator: **Maryam Sugrue Foubert**

Website Coordinators – **Melanie Ritchie**

Talentfest Coordinator-**Jen Danby Mcdonald**

Hot Lunch Program Coordinators- **Tara Starzmoski and Johan Brathwell**

Milk Program Coordinator-**Eleanor Robinson**

Intermediate Parents Group Coordinator: **Laurel Perry**

Library Committee Coordinators: **Melanie Ritchie (2016) and Cynara Corbin (2017)**

Voting Members Carrie Amell, Jenni Bell, Trish Bezaire, Tina Clarmo, Cynara Corbin, Crystal Doyle, Elli Kapsalis, Emma Krzyzanowski, Tamara Legris, Esther McConaghy, Deanna Morris, Lisa Multari, Lesley Parker, Melanie Ritchie, Sarah Slater, Tara Starzmoski, Maryam Sugrue-Foubert, Tracey Lager

Members at Large – Maria Armas, Melanie Lacroix, Ashley Lewis, Leslie Segal

Principal – Chris Toivonen

Teacher Representatives (rotation) – including: Kim Holmes, Kim MacMullin, Sarah Cimetta, Tana Beaulieu, Carrie Merriam, Joanne Lacharity, Angie Bickmore, Chris Mott, Kristeen Kemp, Geneviève Beaupre

Staff Representatives - Gail Souliere (Administrator), Coreen Atkins (Librarian)

What Did Council Do in the 2016-2017 School Year?

- Launched our new Kinder Yard in September 2016 with the support of local sponsors and Area Trustee Mark Fisher.
- Informed our school community through the implementation of a school-wide parent email list.
- Grew our CVESC facebook group membership to over 300 members to further enhance parent connections with the school. The group is very active with daily postings and information dissemination from council to the members.
- Received a Ministry of Education \$1000 Parent Reaching Out grant for the 2016/17 school year to support the delivery of 2 Parent Information Evenings including a special screening and discussion of the movie of Screenagers, an award winning film that looks at kids navigating the world of social media and MindMasters, a series of mental health promotion developed by CHEO. Both events were well attended and received.
- Launched our Library Project. We surveyed our students and parents and responded by renovating our library to create more open space, add new technology and create distinct spaces for different age groups. We painted the entire room and purchased appx. \$11,000 of new furniture to make the space more inviting and efficient for students.
- Ran the alternative lunch and milk programs as well as bi-monthly popcorn days.
- Supported the Terry Fox National School Run Day
- Supported the Education Foundation of Ottawa's Toonie Tuesday
- Supported Jump Rope for Heart
- Held 2 well attended family movie nights in the school gym and will continue to host them in the coming school year.
- Funded appx. \$8000 in Ad Hoc requests (including items like reusable paint supplies needed for the Intermediate Painting Day, a visit from renowned mystery writer Eric Wilson, picnic tables for outside, Blues in the Schools, Butterfly Larvae kits for classrooms)
- Supported the grade 7 & 8 Ambassadors in their efforts to raise awareness and funds for their initiatives
- Planned and organized Christmas Shopping & Activity Days and expanded activities at our largest event, Fun Night, by working with local partners.
- Organised Talentfest, which was held over two nights and saw active student involvement. In lieu of admission, requests were made for canned food, which was donated the Ottawa Food Bank.
- Supported Career Day, which saw 17 guests meet with our intermediate students and share their career experiences with them. The intermediate teachers had the students complete Career Cruising online assessment, which helped them identify their personal interests. The results were used to match them with the appropriate guests (including a chef, welder, ER doctor, aerospace engineer and interior designer, among others).
- Coordinated fundraising programs and events throughout the year: Cedar Bush Creations, Samko Toy Sale, Stepped Tea, Fundscrip and Mabel's Labels
- Hosted the Staff Appreciation Lunch and Student Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Castor Valley Elementary School Council Year-End Reporting of School Generated Funds for 2016-2017

Castor Valley Elementary School	
Opening balance on August 1, 2016	\$30,841.53
Amount raised by school council from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017	\$97,090.14
Amount spent by school council from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017	\$90,455.74
Closing balance on July 31, 2017	\$37,475.93