

Featherston Drive School Council annual report on the 2018-19 school year activities

As the Featherston Drive School Council submits an annual report to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and our community, we would like to use this opportunity to thank our parents, family members, staff and community members for selflessly sharing their energy and time to benefit our students and their families. We depend on your support and you are what makes this school the amazing place that it is.

This year we were fortunate to welcome a new principal, Brian Chiasson, whose support for our families and students was immediately contagious. It is also a year when, with mixed feelings, we said goodbye to our amazing vice principal, Ms. Jenna Campbell. Her kindness will continue to be felt and encourage everyone at Featherston to be their best and our students are forever richer for having studied with her. The council also gives the biggest thank you to our outgoing chair, Becky Staniforth. Over the past 6 years Becky has given her limitless energy to the school and stood up the Parent Council when there was none. She leaves an unmatched legacy of dedication, support for each and every Featherston child and really big shoes to fill for current council members. She will continue to dedicate her time working with the Autism classes who will, no doubt, benefit from her contagious laughter.

This was another dynamic year for the School Council. We were able to continue and expand many of our traditional community, fund-raising, and family events and introduce a few new initiatives in an effort to support the school and foster a positive experience for all of our children.

2018-19 School Council Members

Co-Chair: Becky Staniforth

Co-Chair Maja Strika

Treasurer John Holgate

Member at Large: Marlisa Tiedemann

2018-19 Meeting dates

The School Council met 10 times during the 2018-19 school year. The elections were held during the first meeting. Meetings were held in the school library on the following dates:

- September 26, 2018
- October 9, 2018
- November 13, 2018
- December 11, 2018
- January 13, 2019
- February 19, 2019
- March 19, 2019
- April 16, 2019
- May 14, 2019
- June 11, 2019

What did Council do last year?

School Council at Featherston organizes school community-building and fundraising events, to provide financial support and deliver numerous programs for students each year. The Council also provides supports communication between parents and school staff and addresses important issues in our school community.

Our main events this year included:

Two Family Movie Nights: It is always fun to welcome our families in the school gym for a fun night of movie watching. The kids always make this event brighter by wearing their pajamas, bringing their blankets and stuffed toys. This year we enjoyed the Sing and Christopher Robin. The admission is always free at the events and they include raffles, pizza, popcorn, baked good and juice sales. Movie nights have become a fun tradition and they will continue this year. We look forward to welcoming all of you again at least two times during this school year. Money raised: \$517



Two Bake sales: We were happy to continue the tradition of always popular bake sales at Featherston. Our extraordinary parents make magic happen with baked good they provide for these events. They run smoothly, supported by parents and intermediate classes' leadership club volunteers. Bake sales often mark an upcoming holiday and always put big smiles on kids' faces. We look forward to organizing more of these sweet events throughout the upcoming school year. Please check the school's twitter feed, posters in the hallways, and the newsletter for the exact days around Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Money raised: \$827



Pizza Program: Dedicated council members with help from parent community volunteers and staff run our pizza program smoothly. We have continued to offer pizza every week with great success. Parents are able to enjoy a "day-off" from lunch- making, as the kids enjoy the yummy pizza, while their school and activities benefit from the proceeds! Our pizza provider this year was Domino's. This win-win program will continue in the 2019-20 school year with fresh pies arriving from Pizza Pizza. Please look for invites regularly from the School Cash On-line to place your order. Money Raised: \$11,464



School Walk-a-thon: Every spring we love to get outside and mark the season with being active with the kids. For about an hour everyone takes and outdoor break, which is especially important as the kids prepare to take the EQAO test. We move around and get that energy that gathers during sitting in class out with smiles on. Please keep supporting this happy and healthy event, which raises money for important projects in the school in the upcoming school year. Money Raised: \$472



How did we spend the money raised?

Every year council distributes funds to the school for various activities and supplies. These expenditures are voted on by active council members and are re-visited and re-considered each fall or as they come up. Among other things, this year we are happy we were able to:

- Purchase various **classroom supplies** as requested by the teachers, based on particular class needs. Over the years this support has averaged \$4,000 per year and has provided items ranging from iPads to large maps and sensory bin items.
- Two **MASC drama performances** which provided an exciting and unique experience for the kids and the families.
- Support for one **school bus per classroom** to offset the cost of educational and always exciting field trips. As many classes are able to share the buses, this support often means at least two outings for the kids during the year.
- Support for the **School Leaving Ceremony** for the Grade 8s that goes toward purchase of cakes for the kids and their families.
- Support for the **Forest of Reading program** with the purchase of recommended French and English non-fiction books by Canadian authors. This program continues to be run by our dedicated librarian and inspires kids to make reading a life-long rewarding habit.
- Funding to maintain the **aeroponic gardens** in the school that provide the kids with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the environment, importance of good nutrition and sustainability.



Plans for the current school year

Featherston School Council always strives to improve and grow year over year. Our main focus for the current school year will be to maintain and improve our finances to ensure a solid footing to be able to enrich the kids' school experience this and in the future years. This will enable us to undertake bigger projects like building on the beautiful new learning commons in our library and supporting the maker space by purchasing robotics and other STEM learning supplies for hands-on learning in the near future.

We will support many of the ongoing activities you have come to know at the school. We also have a few new initiatives we are hoping to have at the school.

- **Coding workshops:** We hope to peak kids interests into the world of science and computing by bringing in Coding Workshops, like the ones offered by the University of Ottawa. They offer kids opportunity to experiment and learn with tools and toys like Ozobots, Scratch, and Sphero. This year, we are hoping to help the school make the coding workshops available to many classes. These activities develop science, technology, engineering and math skills of our students, preparing them for the challenges of the future.
- **Self-Confidence Workshop:** We hope to bring in a sports-oriented organization to work primarily with our intermediate students to help build their self-confidence, focusing on their strength and health. The activities are aimed at building a foundation that will help our students be better prepared to take on the work and social challenges that they may face in high school and later on in life.
- **National Arts Centre Orchestra:** Ottawa is home to a world-renowned orchestra that this year celebrates its 50th birthday. Musicians have specially designed school performances that would give our students and families a unique experience while supporting many of the concepts they learn in classrooms.



To accomplish this, we would love to make sure we continue to see all of you at our events and fundraising activities, as well as introduce some new ones, like a donation-based Snow Suit Exchange. To this end, we

always welcome new School Council members and our families' suggestions for what you would like to see the School Council support. Please consider getting involved in with the Council, at our meetings, or at any events you feel you can support. The experience will go a long way in supporting your child's school and will give you a whole new view into their learning and friendships.

School council meetings are open to all. We meet every fourth Wednesday of the month and dates of our meetings are communicated in the newsletter and the calendar on the school website. Meetings are held at 6:30PM at the school library. Please feel free to contact Maja Strika, 2019-20 Council Chair, at maja.strika@gmail.com or (613)606-8754 with any comments or questions about the Council.

Statement of Operations and Financial Position of the Featherston Drive School Council

As submitted to the OCDSB in September, 2019

School Name Featherston Drive Public School

School Council Co-Chairs Becky Staniforth and Maja Strika

Opening balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on August 1, 2018	\$11,686.74
The amount raised by school council during the year August 1, 2018 and July 31, 2019	\$13,781.06
The amount spent by school council during the year August 1, 2018 and July 31, 2019	\$10,660.23
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand on July 31, 2019	\$14,807.57

Annual Report Submitted by Maja Strika, 2018-19 Co-Chair of the Featherston School Council

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