

Thoughts from School Council

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all of our parent volunteers who came out for meetings and helped out where possible during another unprecedented school year. We really appreciate your time and efforts toward making Harris Mill an even better place for our students. Your contributions make a difference!

We're saying a special thanks and goodbye (or see you soon) to Jen MacLeod who has been involved with many council initiatives over the years, most notably in spearheading our schoolyard improvements and playground from the ground up, and to Martha Turner, most recently our PIC Representative and Council Secretary. Thank you both for all you have done for the families at Harris Mill.

Thank you also to Mme Hare, our Principal, and Mrs Mulhern, our Council Teacher Representative, for all you have done this year.

WELCOME!

We'd also like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome and invitation for all parents to come out to council meetings next year. Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month, and our kick off meeting in September is planned for Sept 14th at 7pm. We'd love to meet some new volunteers, and encourage you to get involved to whatever extent suits your family – your contributions are a big part of the success of our school community.

Involvement could be:

- coming out to a council meeting to learn more about what is happening in the school (or attending online if Covid restrictions are still in place in September)
- volunteering an hour or two for a specific event (in a typical year there are both daytime and evening opportunities)
- an ongoing volunteer role such as with the snack program
- getting involved with a committee
- committing to a term on the executive

As the Ministry and Board provide more information over the summer as to what the 2021/2022 school year will involve, we'll have a better idea of what programs and events we can run.

Have questions? Email Jen (jen@jentulloch.com) or Amanda (a.samms@hotmail.com)

Remember! Click on Support A Fundraiser and select Ecole Harris Mill PS when you are ordering your **Mabel's Labels** for summer camp or back to school!

COUNCIL INITIATIVES THIS YEAR

- The playground opened!!! Our school playground finally opened on April 1st this year. Although we were then out of the building for the rest of the year shortly afterward, I know all of the students are looking forward to putting the two play areas to good use in the fall when we return
- We purchased 14 class sets of playground items for use during recess and outdoor DPA (Daily Physical Activity). Items in these sets include frisbees, basketballs, footballs, bouncy balls, skipping ropes, skip-its and other items to help the kids have fun and be active during recess breaks and during outdoor class time.
- Snack program continued to operate in the school. The classroom bins were kept stocked with prepackaged nutritious items to supplement lunches for learners who may have forgotten theirs at home or found themselves still a little hungry after finishing their lunch
- We supported tech in the school and online learning at home by purchasing 16 chromebooks for student use and a "tech tub" (storage and charging)
- We currently have one outdoor classroom area at the school, and are exploring options to add additional outdoor classroom spaces, including shade sails and taking advantage of natural shade. We hope to have some of these in place by late summer/early fall.