



HENRY LARSEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1750 Sunview Drive, Gloucester, ON K1C 5B3

Phone: (613) 830-4634 Fax: (613) 830-4275

Principal: Christine Camus-Shepley

Vice Principal: Jeremy Nowisky



Dear Parents and Community Members,

This year, the Henry Larsen Elementary School Council had a core group of members who regularly attended meetings and participated in Council activities. Once again, the Council has organized and supported events throughout the school year. In addition, many fundraisers were held throughout the year to raise funds for all manner of items to support the children in and out of the classroom. The School Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Henry Larsen teachers and staff, parents, community members and students for their support in making 2013/14 such a successful year.

Fundraising dollars raised through our Norcard catalogue sales and the CCRP magazine subscription sales were used to subsidize events as well as to support a staff wish list. This list is a list of requests made by teachers to purchase items that may not be possible without the assistance of the School Council funds. These are things that will enhance the school experience for the students but for which government funding is not available. The Council was able to invest funding in things that impact the children directly inside and outside the classroom.

The Monster Mash at Halloween is an event that is run by and fully funded by the Council. Traditionally this event has been geared towards the kids in grade 1-5 however with the advent of full-day kindergarten, the SK and JK kids were included for the first time. The haunted house created and run by one of the older classes was once again a huge hit, especially with its ability to be ramped up or down geared towards the kids preference. There were also many games, toys and treats for a fun-filled morning.

This year, we were able to provide funding for some new instruments for the school music program, for volleyball nets for the athletic program and for books for the reading club (Forest of Reading) all of which are popular programs at Henry Larsen. Support was also provided for refreshments for the school dances, for the purchase of a portable microphone/speaker system to be used at school events, for the Henry Larsen Fun Fair and for maintaining the School Council website (www.henrylarsensc.ca). Council has also encouraged parent involvement by sponsoring a talk on teaching our kids about money and organized and supported the end-of-year staff appreciation lunch.

Fundraising specific to Henry's Cool Yard continued this year which will involve the redevelopment of the school yard in different stages. All trees planted as part of a grant program at the end of 2013 survived their first winter thanks to care by students, staff and parents who committed to watering over the summer months of 2013 and 2014. Once established after 2 years, nature will take over their care. The Fun Fair held in the spring was an unprecedented success—our biggest fundraiser ever. This year's edition included bouncy castles, games, a bbq, cotton candy, a lemonade, live music, a bike rodeo, a book and plant sale and a very successful silent auction. Two successful raffles were held as well this year: in December, a holiday meal donated by SupperWorks was raffled off and in the spring, 3 baskets of items donated by local businesses were raffled after a day of ticket sales at Walmart. Other fundraisers geared specifically to the school yard redevelopment included the "Simply Giving Campaign" whereby families could send in a donation to go towards the playground redevelopment, the sale of Henry Larsen "spirit" bracelets and Fundscip gift cards, ongoing sales from Mabel's Labels

and from The Lunch Lady program. Events such as these could not take place without the support of the entire school community.

This year, the Council Executive consisted of Chair, Jennifer Pyne and Treasurer, Marcia O'Connor with the position of Secretary being a rotating position. Staff were represented by the Christine Camus-Shepley (Principal), Jeremy Nowiski (Vice-Principal) and Joanne Lalonde (teaching liaison).

The Council met on a monthly basis during the school year (with the exception of March), usually on the second Monday of each month. These meetings provided an opportunity for parents and staff to share information related to school life, student achievement and school board initiatives. All parents, school staff and community members are welcome. The Council strives to represent the interests of the community and well attended meetings ensure that many opinions and ideas are brought forward and discussed.

The Council performed a variety of functions as determined by the Ministry of Education.

The Council uses various means to communicate to the parent body, including the school newsletter, emails (for those who signed up for our mailing list) and the 'backpack express'. While the Council also has a section on the school webpage for its use, the Council also further developed this year their own website to share information with parents. This site can be found at <http://henrylarsensc.ca/> and contains information, documentation and resources for parents.

As always, the school community has been very active in the school with numerous activities; your volunteer hours are invaluable to the successful outcomes of the Council's activities. We would like to thank the family and staff volunteers without whom we could not accomplish our goals.

On behalf of Henry Larsen Elementary School Council,
Jennifer Pyne, Chair 2013/2014