

## **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AT RUNNYMEDE?**

As a parent who may be new to Runnymede, Council wanted to provide you with a hard copy overview of the many ways you can get involved at the school. However, we also encourage you to visit:

**OUR WEBSITE @ [WWW.RUNNYMEDECOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.RUNNYMEDECOUNCIL.ORG)**

### **RUNNYMEDE COUNCIL**

Parents, administration and teachers work together on Runnymede Council to promote participation, co-operation, understanding and effective communication within the school community. Council meetings provide a forum for you to hear information directly from school administration and to discuss and recommend action on key educational issues. This group of volunteers also determines how money fundraised by Council is spent.

- Our music, drama, arts and athletics offerings are NOT standard issue within the TDSB – they require additional funding and a committed group of teachers, staff and parents to volunteer their time.
- Our outdoor classrooms, our resident Green Teacher, the Kinder-Garden, our bi-annual Yard Days, our Eco-School status, and our Peacekeeper Program are all unique within the TDSB – these, too, require extra funding and volunteer time.
- Our teachers at Runnymede each received approximately \$300 last year to spend on enriching their class or classroom – again, this is not true of all schools in the TDSB!
- Given Runnymede's socio-economic ranking, we are not a priority to receive funds from the TDSB for technology so money raised by the Council has contributed towards technology purchases.

These are a but a few of the items that Runnymede Parent Council has allocated funds to in recent years – with the objective of spending on projects which collectively, over the long term, benefit the largest number of students. If you have opinions on how funds should be allocated, simply attend council meetings to become a part of the decision-making process!

You are welcome to attend any meeting throughout the year. However, to be able to vote on issues at these meetings, you must attend the first meeting and become a voting member.

### **RUNNYMEDE COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The following committees of Runnymede Council do a lot of work to benefit the school in very specific ways. You do NOT have to attend Council meetings to be involved in any of the following committees.

#### **Arts Enrichment Advisory Committee**

This committee is focused on ensuring that equitable and varied (multi-disciplinary) arts programming is brought to the students of Runnymede Public School. This year we will continue to run the JK-Grade 3 Arts Enrichment Program, which culminates in the Spring Thaw Art Show. In addition, we plan to continue to build on the outdoor art on display at the school and to support the school's vibrant Drama, Strings and Band programs. You do NOT have to be an artist to join this committee – so if any of the work we're doing sounds interesting – be sure to contact us!

**Co-chairs: Alice Bell & Erin Carroll - [erin.million@gmail.com](mailto:erin.million@gmail.com)**

### **Centennial Committee**

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 Runnymede school will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This committee is researching the history of Runnymede, collecting archives and beginning preparations for the Centennial Celebration. Whether you are interested in planning Centennial events, promoting the Centennial or researching the school's history, this committee would welcome your involvement.

***Co-chairs: Vangelia Nitsis & Marshall Leslie – [industrialarts@rogers.com](mailto:industrialarts@rogers.com)***

### **Communications Committee**

This committee works to improve communication with parents and welcome new families. Having launched our **WEBSITE** last year, we encourage you to bookmark it and visit often! With regular updates and an online school calendar of events, this is a valuable resource. We will also be continuing to run the email distribution system to ensure parents receive timely news from both the School and Council directly to their inboxes! Parents with experience in communications or ideas on how to improve communication are encouraged to join this committee.

***Chair: Jason Thompson – [jason.thompson@rogers.com](mailto:jason.thompson@rogers.com)***

### **Spirit Committee**

This group of volunteers is committed to creating a sense of community and raising the funds required to deliver the many “extras” that we have come to expect as standard for our children at Runnymede. We surveyed the Runnymede parent community in Spring 2011 and heard back that there is a strong desire to SIMPLIFY fundraising. Based on this survey, the Spirit Committee simplified fundraising last year with great success. In 2012/2013 the Spirit committee will continue to:

- Rely on a direct request to parents as its' main fundraiser (this will be sent home in early October)
  - The annual amount requested will be \$50 per-child
  - Tax receipts will be provided for all donations over \$25
  - Post-dated cheques can be submitted
- Organize fun community-based fundraisers and events: Pizza Lunches, The Spring Thaw Art Show & FUNdraiser, Parent Pub Night/Silent Auction, Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- Make information regarding QSP Magazines, Mabel's Labels and Amazon.ca available should you wish to make a purchase however eliminate the PEP rally and formal DRIVE.

Whether you are interested leading an initiative or volunteering a few hours of your time, the Spirit Committee is a fun way to get involved at the school.

***Co-chairs: Heather Pegg & Krista Wylie – [emandkrista@sympatico.ca](mailto:emandkrista@sympatico.ca)***

### **Ward 7**

Runnymede has two Ward 7 Reps – parents who attend the Ward 7 meetings to get informed about the issues facing our schools and the TDSB in order to communicate back to the Runnymede community. While only the two designated Ward 7 Reps can attend Ward 7 meetings, if you are interested in the issues facing our schools and the TDSB or in mobilizing parents to take action on specific issues, the Ward 7 Reps would appreciate your ideas and involvement.

***Contact Heather Jordan – [hjordan@bell.net](mailto:hjordan@bell.net)***

### **Yard Committee**

Runnymede is lucky to have one of the greenest schoolyards in the TDSB! The Yard Committee maintains and enhances this amazing schoolyard – everything from the basketball hoops and play structures, to the Hillside Garden, stone amphitheatre, peace circle and outdoor art projects. This year, we will continue expansion of the new Kinder-Garden sensory garden, as well as important maintenance that will involve planting, weeding, watering and painting. We will also be working closely with teachers to share further curriculum-based lesson plans that can be implemented in Runnymede's amazing outdoor classroom.

You don't have to have a "green thumb" – just a willingness to help out around the school yard. You can also support this committee by donating old garden tools or Canadian Tire money at the school office or by attending the Fall and Spring Yard Days – fabulous family-friendly events that combine work and fun. The Fall 2012 Welcome Back BBQ & Yard Day is scheduled for **Sat. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 am – 12:30 pm.** Bring the whole family to this great community event to kick off the school year!

**Chair: Sarah Frame – [angus.sarah.frame@sympatico.ca](mailto:angus.sarah.frame@sympatico.ca)**

### **AT THE SCHOOL**

At the School level, separate from Council and its committees, there are also many ways to get involved. Contact the School Office about these volunteer opportunities:

#### **School Committees**

There are several school committees, lead by teachers or a member of administration, which require parent representatives: The Staffing Committee, Equity Committee, and Safe Schools Committee.

#### **Safe Arrival Program**

Each day, several parent volunteers work in the office from 9:00 – 11:00 am to verify student absences and ensure all students arrive at school safely. To operate this program, parent volunteers are needed.

#### **IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASS**

Perhaps the most direct way to impact your child's school experience is to get involved in their class. Each child's teacher will correspond directly with you about specific needs and philosophies (i.e. early in the year, teachers may want to develop class norms without parents in the classroom) but here are some ways you may get involved in your child's class:

**Scholastic Book Orders:** Teachers appreciate a parent taking care of processing Scholastic order forms and delivering books to families once received.

**School Trips:** Teachers often need parent volunteers to attend school trips.

**Class Contact Lists:** A class contact list can be really helpful (particularly in younger grades) for busy parents to facilitate playdates, birthday parties etc. so teachers may appreciate parent help.

**Sharing Expertise:** Teachers appreciate offers to share special skills or talents that tie into classroom curriculum or special class activities (i.e. concerts).