

St. David CSS School Council Annual Report: 2015-2016

The goal of the St. David School Council is to help promote St. David's mission statement of "Heart of the Community - Success for Each, A Place for All," through increasing parent involvement and communication between the school, home and community.

In 2015-2016, our School Council supported the St. David community through a wide variety of ways. In August, we had our sixth annual Used Uniform Sale. We offered a lower cost school uniform alternative to parents and generated total sales of over \$6,800. With the money raised through the sale of used school clothing we were able to offer support and encouragement to a wide variety of organizations and activities in the school. Our aim was to use our funds to increase student development, interest and enjoyment during their time at St. David. By supporting such a diversity of activities, School Council funding has helped promote "success for each student" at St. David.

In 2015-2016 we approved grants for:

- the Grade 9 Religion retreat program
- the "Celtics Care" program
- "Welcome to St. David" post cards for incoming Grade 9s
- a new St. David School Council Scholarship
- the "Science Olympics" program at St. David
- the St. David Breakfast Club
- the FRC (First Robotics Competition) "Team Dave"
- the Intermural Super teams program
- The 50th Anniversary celebration and new sculpture installation
- New large-scale graphics for the gym doors

We continued our tradition of helping to create a welcoming atmosphere at St. David's for the Meet the Teacher Night, Interview Night, the Awards Night reception and the November Graduation reception. During the Grade Eight Night in December parent volunteers were available to answer questions for parents. On Grade Eight Night we distributed the "Tips for Parents" brochure to all parents. The information is also on the school website.

The parents in the St. David's community showed that they care for and appreciate the teachers of our children by hosting the Teacher Breakfast at the start of February. In February, in co-operation with St. Matthew, St. Luke and St. Theresa Schools, School Council hosted a special guest speaker, educational author and speaker, Alyson Schafer. Ms. Schafer spoke on predictable conflicts parents can have with their children and how to develop more effective and more positive strategies to deal with these conflicts.

In April, parent volunteers helped with the student sign-in table and supervision at the Semi formal. School Council also helped promote the many outstanding accomplishments of the school staff by selecting a St. David teacher, Mr. Garry Kraehling, for the OTIP "Teacher of the Year" award. Our nominee received a special award certificate at the June staff meeting. We have also selected Sarah Ingle to receive the St. David School Council scholarship at Commencement. For the June Grad Breakfast we distributed enamelled keepsake pins for all graduates. All of these events contributed to the "heart of the community" of St. David's.

Over the past year, the members of the St. David School Council have worked hard to help realize the school's mission to be the "Heart of the Community - Success for Each, A Place for All." We thank all of our fellow Council members for their contributions to promoting success for our school, its staff, and its students. We must also, sadly, say "Goodbye and Thank You" to two long serving members of Council, Christine Hampton and Debbie Nafziger, and to our Principal, Mr. Dietrich. They will be missed next year.

Suzy Petrosino and Gary Simons
Co-Chairs