



Council Newsletter

January 2016



Kars on the Rideau School Council



On Our 2016 Calendar:

- **Jar Walk:**
January 21st
- **Dance-a-thon:**
February 26th
- **Used Book & Bake Sale:**
April 22-23rd
- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon:** June 10th

Our Monthly Meetings:

Every **THIRD** Tuesday in the KOTR library. 7:00 pm

It's A New Year!

With the arrival of the New Year, it seemed like a good time to write our first newsletter and tell you more about the 2015-16 School Council, and how staff, parents and our community are working together to benefit our school.

It was a busy fall for Council. We hit the ground running with the **Hot Lunch Program** directly following our September elections. This year we have an energetic mix of returning and first-time Council members. This combination reflects the events we are running this year. To date we have seen the return of the traditional **Hot Turkey Luncheon** and the **Loonie Toonie Sale**. We also piloted new projects like the **St. Albert's "Say Cheese"** fundraiser - and soon, a new **Dance-a-thon**.

We hope that the newer events will be met with the same success as our "tried and true" initiatives. Additionally, parents and staff on Council have invested time in updating policies as well as improving infrastructure so that we may continue to serve the school community in a responsible and accountable manner. However we are always striving to improve and value new ideas and input. Should you have *any feedback*, we'd love to hear from you.



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Parents sometimes ask why we need school councils. The answer is that, together, parents and school staff make up a powerful team that truly affects how our kids experience school everyday. Schools require parent-driven fundraising that help deliver programs and resources that schools often find difficult to fund on their own. Parents need to be able to have a formal voice in their child's education and the institutions that provide them. So where do the awesome mutual benefits of this partnership happen?? You guessed it - School Council.

Your fundraising dollars are shared among many worthy causes at KOTR, not just Council's. Many charities and school-driven events also enjoy your support throughout the year. So we are very, VERY thankful for the success our events have enjoyed, as we do realize that fundraising dollars are limited. But when you send your child off with a fist-full of **Cake-Walk or Jar Walk** tickets, you are helping to purchase iPads, Chromebooks, art workshops, dance programs, literacy materials and field trip bussing for our school (and much more!). All this comes from your financial support of our events. In the case of our volunteers, it is also because of your time.

Our volunteers are the heart and soul of everything we do. School Council is

appreciative of any amount of time you can spare and encourage you to consider getting involved in a way that works best for you. Do you have a special skill or expertise you are willing to share with kids?? Are you an event planner "extraordinaire"?? We would love to hear from you!

The easiest place to contact us is through the KOTR Council website. We continually add more information we hope is useful for parents. You can find out more about who we are, what we do and access a variety of documents and forms (that generally attempt to make school life easier!) Your ideas on improving the website are most welcome too. Please use our **contact form** there by visiting:

<http://kotrcouncil.weebly.com>

The staff and parent members on Council always look forward to meeting new faces in-person, talking about our school, and organizing more fun events for our students. Look for our monthly meetings as well as our **Dance-a-thon** near the end of February and the **Book & Bake Sale** mid-April!

Hope to see some of you there!

Many thanks,

Kim Cable

Chair, KOTR School Council

