

Parent Council Newsletter

SPS Parent

Council

Activities Include:

- Fundraising to enhance educational opportunities for our students;
- Providing input and advice on the operations, programs and policies of the school;
- Organizing social activities to enhance the school community; and
- Striving to be an active, engaging and effective voice.

The next Parent Council Meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, 19 January 2016, in the school lobby.

Please consider joining us! All are welcome.

Upcoming School Spirit Days:

November 27th

Hat Day

December 4th

School Spirit Day

(Red and White)

December 16th

Red/Green/White

Day

AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR SPS

Parent Council is pleased to partner with Stittsville Public School to bring an outdoor classroom to SPS.

What is an Outdoor Classroom?

An outdoor classroom is a space that brings learning outside. It becomes a gathering place for teachers and students and provides an opportunity to integrate nature into your school grounds. By giving students the opportunity to get outside and experience nature, they can bring learning to life.

A well-planned outdoor classroom that is integrated into the school community

will become an important part of your school, and can be used for **every subject**, in **every season**.

WHY have an Outdoor Classroom?

- Improved mood and happier students
- Enhanced appreciation for the outdoors through interaction
- Increased retention rate of subject material
- Improved learning experience for tactile and experiential learners
- Increased understanding of complex ecological concepts
- Incorporation of physical activity across subject areas
- Opportunity to get out of the classroom if the school



does not have the funds to go on field trips

Next Steps

Parent Council has voted to fund an Outdoor Classroom for SPS. Work is being undertaken to develop a design plan and to obtain additional funding through available grants.

PARENT COUNCIL SURVEY: ACTING ON YOUR INPUT

In September 2015, SPS Parent Council circulated a survey designed to gather input from the SPS parents. The results have been summarized and shared with Council. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey. Your input has been used to directly influence the budget voted on by this year's Council members.

Question:

What are the top three areas where Council money should be spent?

Your Answers:

1. Science-Based Activities
2. Physical Education
3. Teacher Allocations
4. Cultural Activities
5. Activities Relating to Safety and Well-Being

Results:

The following items/activities will be funded by your SPS Council this year:

- Scientists in Schools
- Teacher Allocations
- Mathletics
- Outdoor Classroom
- Improvements to the Kinder Yard

Parent Council Contact Information

Have a question or comment?
We'd love to hear it!!

Chair
Chair@spscouncil.com

Secretary
secretary@spscouncil.com

Treasurer
treasurer@spscouncil.com

Fundraising
fundraising@spscouncil.com

We're on the web!
www.spscouncil.com

Rafiki Bracelets to be Sold by the SPS Free the Children Group

Next Week (Monday, November 23rd until Thursday, November 26th), the Free the Children group at SPS will be selling Rafiki bracelets. *The word "Rafiki" means friend in Swahili.* Fundraising by selling Rafiki bracelets helps Kenyan mamas earn a living, send their kids to school and take charge of their future. We are very eager to help support talented artisans overseas to transform their communities. There are five different Rafiki chains that students can buy which support five different causes. The causes are: *Health Care, Clean Water, Healthy Food, Financial Tools and School Supplies.* All Rafiki bracelets are £54 each. The money from each Rafiki sold goes directly to the cause that it supports.

For more information about what Free the Children does, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.freethechildren.com/what-we-do/> and
<http://www.weday.com/we-schools/campaigns/we-are-rafikis/>

Thank you very kindly for supporting the SPS Free the Children Group!

****We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help with our campaigns. Please keep an eye out for sign up opportunities with Volunteer Spot. You can also email us directly at fundraising@spscouncil.com.****

Fundraising News: Keeping You Up To Date!

BOO! YAY! Our first Family Halloween Dance was a fangtastic success, with record-breaking attendance. Parents and kids alike had an absolute blast; the decorations were excellent, and DJ David Aiken rocked our haunted house!! MANY thanks go out to the volunteer team who made it all happen, and especially to our official Dance Coordinator, Heidi Pinsent. Stay tuned for details on our next dance to be held Thursday, February 11th. Interested in helping us out for this amazing event? There are volunteer spots already posted; check it out and sign up!

Our PEROGIES & COOKIE DOUGH fundraiser is under way, and orders will be ready for pick up at the school on Tuesday, November 24th. Please arrive between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to pick up your orders. Thanks goes out to Jennifer Kearns and Mandy Smith for running this campaign; great work!!

Did you go to the SAMKO & MIKO toy sale and still have a stamped receipt to turn in? Please send it in to the office as soon as possible so that it will be counted towards our total.

Planning for our PARENTS' NIGHT OUT event is well underway, so please SAVE THE DATE, and prepare for a night out on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th. You will be able to drop off your children (for a small fee), and enjoy an evening of kid-free shopping, and/or dinner out! Registration forms will be coming home soon, and volunteer spots will be available online shortly. We need your help to make this event a huge success!

Our School Spirit Wear will be available for purchase again before the holidays, and we have a funky new product we know you'll enjoy. Thanks to everyone who returned malfunctioning zip hoodies, and we apologize for the inconvenience. If you are still waiting for your replacement hoodie, it will come in with the holiday orders before winter break.

****We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help with our campaigns. Please keep an eye out for sign up opportunities with Volunteer Spot. You can also email us directly at fundraising@spscouncil.com.****