

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Judi Torrao

CHAIR

Richard Tanabe

TREASURER

Nathalie Carr

RECORDING SECRETARY

Anita Gonzalez

PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

Andrea Lang

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Celia Savage

NON-TEACHER
REPRESENTATIVE

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Tanabe

Lisa Wong

James Carr

Sue D'Angelo

Eva Omes

Mark Strozyk

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Michael Araman

MEETING DATES

JANUARY 11

FEBRUARY 15

MARCH 29

APRIL 26

MAY 17

Meetings are held in the
School Library at
7:30pm and run until
approximately 9pm

The School Council & This Newsletter

The School Council is a body that represents you, the parents and guardians of the St. Richard students. We are here, not only to raise funds for the school but to act as your liaison to the staff of our school and the School Board as well. Though there is a small group that meets monthly to plan different events and fundraisers, we are always looking for your input to help us make the right choices. Coming to a meeting will not automatically make you a member of the School Council (elections occur in September and allow you to have a vote) but it is a chance to have your voice heard. This newsletter is our voice and we pledge to share the latest and on-going School Council events with you. We hope that you will look forward to the news we have to share.

The main function of the School Council is to raise funds for the school. Though each school is allotted a certain amount of money from the board to help fund programs and to purchase various supplies needed, these funds are often less than our teachers require to make the learning experience the best that it can be. So we fundraise through various means, including Pizza Days, Dance-a-Thons, Ice Dawg sales and more.

These hard earned dollars help our students in many ways including:

- purchasing resources to enhance and support the school literacy programs;
- providing student agendas at no cost to you;
- helping to offset the cost of a bus for your child's class trip;
- full funding of the grade 8 retreat;
- providing a celebration for the Grade 2 and 8 classes for their First Communion & Graduation;
- full funding of the *Artists in the School Program* (which is a program where various artists, authors, scientists, etc. are brought into the school to help enhance the learning experience of our children);

The above activities happen on an annual basis, so require continuous fundraising. In addition to the above, which are annual expenses, School Council has made the following contributions to help make St. Richard a better and safer school. These include:

- contributions toward the blue safety mats on the gym walls;
- a new volleyball net (funded by the proceeds from last year's Ice Dawg sales);
- new TVs and DVD players;

Be a part of the Process, be a Volunteer

All members of the School Council are volunteers. We offer our time to help the school with various jobs and duties. You can be a volunteer as well, and we can use all the help that you can offer. You can volunteer a few hours or a few days of your time. Where can you help?

- All Star Reading parent volunteers;
- making photocopies at the school;
- helping to plan and execute events like the *Family Advent Mass*;
- helping with the *Kiss & Ride* program (runs daily from 8:15 to 8:30 am);
- Pizza Day volunteers;
- helping with other School Council initiatives;

You do not have to join the School Council to volunteer or to participate in school events. Any ideas or any time that you can contribute will help to make our school be the best that it can be. We look forward to working with all St. Richard families to give each student the best school environment possible. We thank you for your support of School Council endeavors; we couldn't do it without you. *Merry Christmas and all the best to your families during the happy and holy season.*

~ Judi Torrao, School Council Chair ~

Upcoming Pizza Day:

December 16th

In the New Year, pizza days will be offered 2 times per month. For the low price of \$14 (1 slice pizza, cookie and a drink) by participating, you can opt to NOT pack a lunch for your kids on:

January 13 & 27

February 10 & 24

New order request envelopes will be distributed to the students next week, and payments will be taken in for 4 Pizza Days at a time.



Church & School & Council Initiatives

- Thanks to all St. Richard School parents and students for supporting the *Halloween Candy Drive*. We collected and sent 40 lbs of hard candy to Dr. Simone's warehouse in Mississauga. We are looking forward to beating this record next year!
- Thanks to families for their generous participation in the "Christmas Shoe Box" project. Our 26 boxes were among thousands of boxes collected and shipped to countries around the world. Samaritan's Purse Canada, established in 1973, is working in about 70 countries around the world while Samaritan's Purse International (including offices in the U.S., England, Ireland, Holland, Germany and Australia) is working in more than 100 countries. When Dr. Bob Pierce founded Samaritan's Purse in 1970, his goal was "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing Evangelical Mission Agencies and National Churches." We help contribute to that mission. Operation Christmas Child was founded by a family in Ireland who were deeply moved by news stories of orphaned children in war-torn Eastern Europe. That year the family collected and packed dozens of boxes and personally drove and delivered them to the children at Christmas. For more information about the organization, or how to get involved, go to samaritanspurse.ca/shoebbox.
- Help your child display this month's virtue of HOPE. Hope is the virtue of relying on God. It keeps us searching for true happiness, sustains us during hard times, and keeps us from being discouraged.

~Anita Gonzales, Parish Representative~

Deck the Halls...

In honour of St. Richard's School's 35th Anniversary, we are planning to decorate the newly painted school hallway walls with inspirational quotes and pictures. We are looking for talented parent volunteers to help with the painting. We hope that the quotes will inspire the students and make them feel special.

Please call the school and leave a message for the School Council or send an email to Eva Omes c/o strichardschoolcouncil@gmail.com if you would like to help with the preparation or painting. You do not have to be an artist to help, any input is welcome.

We are also looking for quotes! Pick your favourite and send it in. Your quote may be chosen to be placed on a school wall! The final selections will be made by the students and teachers.

To inspire you, here are one parent's offerings:

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother or sister and offer them your hand." (Mother Teresa)

"It is not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing." (Mother Teresa)

We look forward to your creative contributions.

~Eva Omes, Parent Representative~

Bake someone happy...



Are you a baker or know where to buy a special treat you'd like to share with the St. Richard School community? The Annual St. Richard Family Advent Mass will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 7pm. Everyone is invited to join us after the Advent Mass for a warm drink, along with some Christmas baked goods. Help make this a memorable evening by sharing some of your family's favourite Christmas goodies on this special evening. If you would like to contribute baked goods, please deliver them to the Church Hall kitchen on Tuesday December 14th, just prior to the 7:00 pm start of the St. Richard School Advent Mass. **No Tree or Ground Nut Products Please.**

Survey Corner

We would like to try a SUB day in the New Year. Vote for your favourite SUB company, as each one has different offerings of sub-types, drinks, and desserts.





I am not interested in Sub Days

Please cut out this corner and drop off at the school office or send it with your child in their school agenda.

~ Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.

~George F. McDougall ~

CONTACT US

Leave a message for
School Council Chair

Phone:

905-826-5572

Fax:

905-826-9564

E-mail:

strichardschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Alternatively, you can leave a message in the School Council mailbox in the School Office.