Hello Parents and Welcome to Another Exciting Year at Davisville Public School!

Davisville is an incredible community and what makes a community is you! For those families who are returning, you know what a great hub of activity goes on here; for those of you who are joining us this year let us extend a warm welcome and invitation to get involved.

We are the Co-Chairs of the Davisville School Council (Council) Tanya Murdoch and Anne Mullins. The Council plays an important role in the operation of the school and therefore the life of your child. We support our children’s education by volunteering in many ways and by fund-raising to support endeavors that make Davisville a better place. By joining Council, you stay informed and model both spirit and accountability for your child. Volunteering also helps you meet other parents and fosters a great sense of community.

Davisville boasts a large and involved Council. It is made up of parents and guardians; staff and administration from the school, as well as members of our community. We have an elected executive voted in at our first meeting in September, all positions are open to any family member who wishes to run. We would love you to chair or co-chair any one of these committees or volunteer to accept one of these Executive positions. There is a complete list of chairs (and brief descriptions of time commitments and responsibilities) on the parent run website: www.davisvilleparents.com/about-council Please come out to our first meeting (and election) on SEPTEMBER 29TH. Any member of the community is welcome to our meetings which are held once a month at night, during the school year. We even provide babysitting services! If you cannot make it to meetings, you can still volunteer at the school.*

Below is a list of the many exciting activities involving Council and volunteers at Davisville:

1) **Food Based Programs:**

**Fresh Schools** supported by our health education teachers, caretakers, Nutrition and Eco Schools Programs (this new program will develop a platform to teach and encourage all of us to live and eat healthy). We’ll have a foodie-in residence; food workshops; cooking classes and; are you ready?-get our children to clean their classrooms. Stay tuned for more details and contact Lesley Stoyan at lesley@dailyapple.ca

**Snack Program** (parents help each day between 9-11am beginning September 21, to prepare and deliver mid-morning healthy food to all classes) - to volunteer, contact Chris Trussel aka The Snack Man at chris@dailyapple.ca

**Hot Lunch Program** offered Wednesdays for participating families (parents assist our partners, FoodShare in handing out meals to the children between 11:30-12)-to volunteer contact Val Upfold at vupfold@rogers.com
**Pizza Lunch** offered every other Friday for participating families (parents help hand out pizza, juice and snack between 11-12) - to volunteer, contact Tanya Murdoch at douglasandtanya@sympatico.ca

**Bake Sales** which are held 3-4 times throughout the year at various events including the Green Bake Sale for Earth Week (don’t say yuk until you’ve tried it!) COORDINATOR NEEDED: if you would like to volunteer for this role or the team, please email council at davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com

**Staff Appreciation** lunch held in November and June (parents donate yummy food for lunch to say thank you to the staff and administrators) - to volunteer, contact Pam Byrne pambyrne1@gmail.com or Farah Namazi at fnamazi78@gmail.com

**Candygrams** for Valentine’s Day (students buy each other a Candygrams) – ok, not so healthy but, fun! And a fundraiser for a charity chosen by students.

2) **Building Community While Having Fun:**

**Curriculum Night** held soon after the school start and organized by our administrators (families come out to meet the teacher and each other as well as learn more about the curriculum)

**Movie Nights** held about once per month between October-April (parents help bring the children to the gym after school, hand out snacks and deliver the children safely into the welcoming arms of their caregivers afterward) - to volunteer, contact Cindy Wasser at cindy@hopespringsfertility.com or Lindsay Wotherspoon at lindsaywotherspoon@gmail.com

**Pumpkinfest** on October 23rd (there are so many activities involved that make this a favorite night for all and therefore so many ways to volunteer!) - to volunteer, contact Treya Beaulieu at treya.beaulieu@gmail.com or Anne Sasu at anne.sasu@sympatico.ca

**Multicultural Night** is a huge potluck dinner organized by our staff (families bring great food based on their cultural heritage to share and dress in their cultural costume) STAY TUNED to our e-mail newsletter for dates.

**Skate Night** held on a Friday night in January at a community outdoor skate rink (parents run a bake sale at the event as well as a skate exchange) COORDINATOR NEEDED: if you would like to volunteer for this role or the team, please email council at davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com

**Carnival** held in February also organized by our staff (children participate in a myriad of activity simulating Quebec’s Winter Carnival) STAY TUNED to our e-mail newsletter for dates and ways to volunteer.

**Fun Fair** held in June and known throughout the City and the best day ever! (again too many ways you can volunteer) - to volunteer, contact the Fun Fair Chair in the spring.

**Visual Arts** - Davisville has several student programs involving animation and film production; school plays and concerts, all of which require assistance with things like poster design, set creation and videography and photography. Please contact Council if you are interested in helping out in this way: davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com
Grad Committee- with French Immersion only starting at Davisville seven years ago, this will be the first year in which we celebrate a French Immersion graduating class alongside our English stream grads. With all those students graduating together, we will be establishing a new committee of volunteers to send our students off on a super high note. We need parents from both communities, please contact Sarah Miller at sbmiller@sympatico.ca

3) Eco Based Programs:

Freecycle (a winter clothing exchange ongoing between October – March) This will be located in the new family lounge in the basement starting in October. If you want to help or for more information contact coordinator Renata Kizakova: rentcha@gmail.com

Rummage Sale/Bag2School held for several days during Earth Week during which you get to separate the stuffies from your child and buy more! COORDINATOR NEEDED: if you would like to volunteer for this role or the team, please email council at davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Eco Club is run by staff and students, but they can use a hand from parents as well. The club is well supported and achieved platinum status eco-school for Davisville last year. WE NEED AN ECO CHAIR to champion eco club at council, and if you are interested in Eco issues or you are an experienced gardener please join this team. Contact Council for information: davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com

4) Educational Based Programs:

Classroom Volunteers: let your teacher know if you are able to help chaperon field trips or volunteer to help with the Scientist in the School days. Kindergarten teachers can use an extra hand (once kids are used to the routine). It's a great way to get to know your child's friend and teacher.

Library Volunteers (parents help our fantastic Librarian, Maria Mantello keep our amazing library well organized) contact maria.mantello@tdsb.on.ca

Fitness/Math/Literacy Night: Staff organize a family night out to focus on one of these areas, usually in winter, come out with your family and get some schooling! Stay tuned for dates and more information.

5) Extracurricular Lunch and After School Programs:

The staff and parent volunteers run a number of clubs and teams (there is either no fee or a small cost for materials):

Terry Fox Run to End Cancer. Held in September- This year we are running to honour the memory of Jeremiah, one of our grade 5 students who lost his fight with cancer last year. Volunteers needed to guide students and cheer them on. STAY TUNED FOR DATE OF RUN
Athletics – (programs run from September – June) – intermural recess games for grades 1-3, Xcountry for grades 1-6 and softball, flag rugby, basketball, volleyball, badminton, ultimate Frisbee and soccer

Choir Program (our junior choir plus grade 2 & 3 choirs competed at the Kiwanis Music festival- and won gold across the board!! And as if that wasn’t enough, our junior choir performed at Massey Hall and sang the anthem at a Raptors game -imagine 20,000 fans before the age of 13!)-we should have sold tissues as a fundraiser!

Eco Club (last year we reached platinum level from their efforts)-described above

Arts, Math, Science, Reading, Leadership Clubs

International Languages Program (after school Mondays 3:30-6pm, TDSB teachers teach Mandarin, Hindi and Spanish classes all year. Registration in September, join year round.

6) Building Community:

Class Connectors: perhaps the best way to support your child's class. Connectors help teachers liaise with the other parents; coordinate the teacher appreciation gifts at the holiday season and year end; send notices from Council to the class parents; and liaise amongst the parents to provide information such as missed homework or organize play dates. If you are interested in taking on this role in your child's class, please talk to your teacher at curriculum night, or talk to our class connector coordinator, Anya Laskin at Anya_Laskin@yahoo.com

Parent Partnership/ Settlement Program: New to Canada? Or new to the school? You are not alone. Even if you are only here for a year or two, make the most of your time: come to school council meetings, or volunteer. Davisville has a settlement worker to help new Canadians adjust and connect to the community. One initiative is the Parent Partnership Program where parents who are new to Canada are matched with parents more familiar with our school and neighbouring community. If you are interested in learning more and helping out someone new to our school and country, please contact parent volunteer Wendy Chong Edgell at: wendy-chong@rogers.com

Building and Land Use Committee: Davisville is so hot that we are busting at the seams! We will be getting a new school over the next few years. Davisville parents formed The Midtown Hub, a not-for-profit group to work with the city, province and private investors to build a much needed community hub on this site, along with the new school. If you'd like to get involved in this amazing endeavor (and, who wouldn’t?), visit their website: www.Midtownhub.com; come visit them on September 26 at either the Mt. Pleasant Fall Fair or the Uptown Fair. Ask your children to share their vision for our community! To volunteer or find out more, e-mail MidtownHub416@gmail.com

Public Health Workshops: last year we hosted really useful workshops such as dealing with kids’ stress and preparing kids to stay home alone, as well as Parent Workshops supported by a Parent Reaching Out Grant. All free and babysitting included! Stay tuned for food and nutritional workshops later this year.

Fund-Raising: to support some of our teams and choir we will have a Spiritwear drive (buy purple and gold Davisville Dragonwear T-shirts and hoodies, show your school spirit-
Go Dragons!) and a Choir Chocolate sale- don't miss out on a great excuse to eat chocolate – school spirit!

Volunteers: you can help out our teams by chaperoning, driving to events or helping out the coaches.

Student Concerts the Kindergarten, primary and junior concerts are each run by staff but Council run a bake sale at each of the three concerts as well as produce a video recording of each concert. If you’d like to help out with the video, please contact Tanya Murdoch douglasandtanya@sympatico.ca

7) Looking Good, Feeling Good Fund-Raising Events: (help out your child, as well as your school)

Mabels' Labels: order your labels through Mabels' Labels year round, using this link: Campaigns.MabelsLabels.com and you'll keep track of your child’s shoes, hats, lunchboxes and you’ll help the school at the same time. If you order through the Davisville campaign online, 50% of the money will come back to the school.

Acorn Cards- unleash the artist within your child, and share their creativity with grandparents and friends, while supporting the school. This fund-raiser is held in October (our students draw in class and the parents have it turned into greeting cards which come out just in time for the holiday season in December)

Jump Rope for Heart held in May to support The Heart and Stroke Foundation (parents help (ok, so they do it all) their children obtain pledges for their skipping participation (the children really do the skipping, not the parents)

8) Just Plain Fun Lunch and After School Programs: (these have small fees and are provided by third parties):

Here are some of the extracurricular programs we had in our school last year- look for sign up forms in your child's back pack:

- Chess'n'Math
- DIY (design, crafts)
- Arts express (drama and dance)
- Lego club
- Glee
- Toronto Parks and Recreation Programs such as yoga, floor hockey, ballet

It is incredible isn’t it? What is more incredible is seeing it all come together with teachers, administrators and parents all working together to give our children a great time while they learn over the years at Davisville. In addition to all the volunteers helping out during these
activities, there are many who support us by volunteering behind the scenes; babysitters** for Council meetings and events; carpenters to help build things occasionally; gardeners to help maintain our student gardens and playgrounds; videographers to capture all this good fun; researcher and writers to look out for grants and other positive opportunities for our school; webmasters and newsletter writers to get all this good information out there and; amazing coordinators for all the volunteers! FIND OUT MORE about how you can get involved; offer suggestions for a field trip; share some of your culture or special skills by contacting Council at davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com and we will support you.

We are proud of our school and its members. Our teachers and caretakers have won district wide awards in recognition of their outstanding contributions and our students are developing greater academic and community achievements with each year.

Family and parent contributions have made a huge difference to our school too. When you walk through the front doors, you are immediately drawn to our Giving Tree, exemplifying what we are all about; walk through the corridors, and you will see parents running craft and cooking workshops; you will see a caravan of cultural activity exemplifying tolerance and open mindedness. You may even see a Prime Minister, a Queen or a famous actor visiting as a result of a student led initiative!

Go outside and walk around our school. You will see a memorial garden and a butterfly garden; you will see new bike racks, new fences and, an amazing new kindergarten playground. We have a little public library, new athletic equipment and new garden equipment. These were all driven by the parents who helped by writing grants, designing, digging and contributing their skills and knowledge. You can really make a difference.

At Davisville Public School, there is something for everyone! There are several ways for you to stay informed and involved:

1) Our school website: schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/davisville has news, and a very useful calendar
2) The parent run website www.davisvilleparents.com - subscribe for reminders and find forms that may have been misplaced or read the minutes of the last school council meeting.
3) School council meetings –don’t forget the first one on September 29 (babysitting provided)
4) School Council weekly e-mail newsletter*** information about what's happening in the school in your mailbox once a week
5) Like us on Facebook: Davisville Parents
6) Follow the latest school news on twitter: @DavisvillePS
5) Classroom Connectors: These people can let you know what's happening on council or in the school and how it affects your child's class, and can suggest ways you can help make the class better.
6) If you ever have any questions, you can contact school council through this e-mail: davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com.
Well that was a whole lot of information – and, there are a whole lot of forms to fill out. It is a big investment but then… this is your child’s future – help shape it!

We are so excited to see you all again as well as to meet all the new parents. We will be looking out to say hello but please look out for us!

*Tanya and Anne*

*PLEASE NOTE: volunteers working with children need to have a police reference check-forms are provided by the school*

**PLEASE NOTE: Babysitters must have a babysitting certificate and can choose to earn volunteer hours or we will pay $20/2 hours (max. 2 babysitters)**

***PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST FILL OUT THE “STAY CONNECTED” form to be on the list and/or you can subscribe (or unsubscribe) anytime by e-mailing: davisvilleschoolcouncil@gmail.com**