



# Margaret Manson Home & School Association



## A message from the president

The 2023/2024 year began with a change in executives as a new president was taking over. We approached our membership recruitment a bit differently this year and gave parents the option to sign up on a volunteer basis if they could not commit to our monthly meetings. This allowed us to still have help at events and fundraisers but did not affect our ability to reach quorum due to low attendance. With 17 voting members and many more parent volunteers, it was a very nice balance.

Our biggest initiative this year was to give back to the hardworking teachers. We gifted each teacher with \$250 to purchase materials for their classrooms. The items purchased ranged from new learning materials, toys and puzzles for the kindergarten classes, subscriptions to online platforms such as “Jardins de Vicky” and even basic supplies like pens and highlighters. We unanimously decided to gift the teachers, recognizing that they often use their own funds to stock their classrooms and support their students.

Our focus for the next few years will be to raise funds to help with climate control in the school. We will be starting by changing the blinds in all of the classrooms to minimize heat from the sun. Additionally, we aim to raise funds to install an air conditioning unit in the cafeteria, a large common area capable of accommodating multiple classes. This improvement will ensure greater comfort for students and staff during very hot summer days, providing a cooler and more conducive learning environment.

A detailed list of our activities and fundraisers are below.

## EVENTS

### Terry Fox Run

Apples were purchased for students and staff and distributed after completing the run.

### Halloween

Mini pumpkins were purchased for the K4 & K5 students to decorate and bring home.

Prizes were purchased for Halloween bingo and various activities.

### Teacher's Gifts

Each teacher received \$250 to purchase necessities for their classrooms.

### Winter Holiday Week

Breakfast with Santa provided for all students. The breakfast included oranges, bananas, cheese, yogurt, juice and croissants.

Prizes and candy canes purchased for holiday week activities.

### Holiday Movie Night

A holiday movie night was planned for the students to attend in their pj's with comfy blankets. Home and school planned to supply snacks and beverages. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the teacher's strike we had to cancel the event.

### Staff Appreciation Week

This year's theme was "Candy Land". We received very generous donations from our MMES community and we were able to spoil the staff! They received a catered breakfast and lunch, ice cream sundae bar, a sweet & salty bar, personalized gifts, massages and a raffle where staff members won concert tickets, gift cards to restaurants and various stores!

### Comedy Night

For the first time in many years we hosted a parents night! We had a lineup of stand up comics that performed for 2 hours. We set up tables in the gym, had a concession stand where we sold alcoholic beverages, chips and candy bars. We also hosted a silent auction that had some incredible prizes such as hockey tickets, personal training sessions, restaurant gift cards and so much more. We held the auction online so it allowed the entire community to participate even if they were not able to attend the event. It was a huge success!!!

### Spring dance

We hosted a spring dance as a give back event this year. The dance was held in the gym and we hired a DJ, provided cotton candy and had a popcorn machine. Each student was also given a reusable plastic cup as a little souvenir. Refreshments were provided for the parents. Tickets were priced to break even so we did not have to use any H&S funds.

### Mindfulness day

For the 3rd year in a row our school hosted a mindfulness day for students. It's a day off from learning to recharge and recenter. This year H&S wanted to be involved so we purchased fresh smoothies as an afternoon snack for students and staff.

### End of year bbq/20th anniversary party

This year MMES reached a huge milestone and celebrated its 20th year. After a difficult few months of planning done by a separate committee, the event was taken over by H&S and was hosted entirely by our committee. We offered Pizza Hut or Subway sandwiches as the food option but families were also allowed to bring their own food, making it a free event in that case. We got a dj, cotton candy, popcorn machines and carnival games from Everblast. We had a small concession stand with drinks and chips for sale. All in all it was a very successful event and we even came in under budget!

### Power hour

Freezies were purchased for students and staff.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Mabels Labels

Mabel labels, which sells multi-use personalized labels, is an ongoing fundraiser that we run all year round. Our home and school gets a return of 20% on all orders.

### Cookie Dough

This is our fifth year offering Felix & Norton pre-portioned frozen gourmet cookie dough at \$11.50 a bag, with a choice of 3 flavours.

All orders once again this year were made online using Cognito forms payments were collected by e-transfers or credit cards. We had a curbside pick up to ensure the frozen cookie dough remained chilled. To accommodate families, we offered a 2 day pick-up option, Friday after school and Saturday morning.

### Pizza Lunch

From October to December we kept our previous vendor and offered pizza lunch once a month. Starting in January we changed providers and moved to Pizza Hut. We had individual sized cheese pizzas and sold them as a trio including a juice and desert. This required volunteers to pick up the additional items from Costco however it really increased participation and profit. The feedback was great and we will continue using them in the fall.

### **Make it Sow**

This was a fundraiser where you purchased seed packets for a variety of items. They offered flowers, veggies, herbs and lots more. We timed it to coincide with Earth Day in April however this wasn't the best time of year to do it as people that start their gardens from seeds had already purchased their seeds. We will start this fundraiser in March next year and hope to see better results. The feedback was good for the product, it was just bad timing.

**A very successful year!!!!**