

BRIDGEPORT P.S. SCHOOL COUNCIL FALL NEWSLETTER

Although this school year proves to be different from any other we have known, we are grateful to have a school council come together and look forward to doing what we can do to support and engage the students and school community.

Welcome to our school council members for the 2021-21 school year!

Josh Barbour
Tony Beckberger (Treasurer)
Sue Clarke
Melissa Coleman (Grants)
Mark Gallas
Laura Hanke
Nadia Landry
Heather Lobsinger (Co-Fundraising)
Jessica Maguire Pearson
Jessica McQuistin
Devonnie Melanson
Kate Olijnyk (Co-Chair)
Seyhan Quinn (WRAPSC)
Christine Rose (Co-Chair)
Kendra Seymour (Secretary)
Chau Truong-Wood (Co-Fundraising)
Meghan Wentworth
Anita Smith (Community Rep)
Crystal Thomson (Staff Rep)
Murray Crewson (Principal)

School Council Meetings

Our first school council meeting of the year was delayed this year and took place on October 27th. If you missed it there will be more! We extend a warm welcome to all parents/guardians, teachers and staff to join our virtual school council meetings at any time throughout the year, and invite any questions or feedback.

Meeting dates, agendas, minutes and other news can be found on the school website at <https://brp.wrdsb.ca/school-council/>

For the foreseeable future, our meetings will be virtual (Google Meet). This decision helps to ensure our staff and community are able to meet in a way that adheres to physical distancing protocols and limits non-essential visitors to our schools as per Public Health's guidance and the Ministry of Education's direction.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, Dec 8, 7:00-9:00pm. If you would like to join the meeting please email us at bridgeport.school.council@gmail.com.



FALL FUNDRAISING: November 12 – 25

Support our fall fundraiser and enjoy delicious fall harvest products from BRANTVIEW FARMS! It is easy, local, consumable and, for every order placed between November 12th and November 25th, 10% of the sales goes to Bridgeport Public School. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help to fund technology in the classroom, which proves to be even more important this year.

Order before November 25th to ensure you receive your yummy goodies!

Click through to the Brantview Farm online store -

<https://howell-road-cider-co.square.site/>

Choose the products you would like to order.

Click on your shopping cart to review your order summary. Choose the 'Delivery' option and in the comments box type in 'Bridgeport Public School'.

Delivery is FREE for our Bridgeport PS community and surrounding neighbourhoods. Your order will be delivered* on:

- November 19th (for orders in the system up to 6:00pm on November 18th) OR
- November 26th (for orders in the system up to 6:00pm on November 25th)

*please note that when you place your order the system may indicate a different delivery date, however deliveries for our school community will be delivered on November 19 and 26.

School Council fundraising helps to support our students and enhance the learning environment. 100% of the funds raised are put back into the school. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated and adds tremendous value to our students' learning. Thank you for your support and helping to make a difference!

Fall Fundraiser



MORE ONLINE PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT BRIDGEPORT P.S.



Mabel's Labels

Mabel's Labels has many options for personalized labels so that you can label your children's clothing (the lost and found bin will thank you too!). Anytime throughout the year, orders placed through Mabel's Labels can support Bridgeport P.S when you follow these steps:

- *Go to www.mabelslabels.com
- *Click on 'Support a Fundraiser' button
- *Choose 'Bridgeport PS (Kitchener)' on school drop-down list
- *Place your order

Fundscrip



Considering gifting gift cards this holiday season? Or purchasing gift cards for your every-day needs? Please consider ordering through Fundscrip and proceeds go to our school. It is easy to get started!

- *Go to www.fundscrip.com
- *Click on 'Support a Group'
- *Our invitation code is **MJLLJG**
- *Follow the prompts to complete your registration and order

BECHTEL PARK OUTINGS FOR ALL CLASSES

We are very lucky to have Bechtel Park and 100 acres of natural beauty in the 'backyard' of Bridgeport P.S. We are also fortunate Anita Smith is a part of our school community. A retired teacher and grandmother to three Bridgeport students, Anita started her career in Outdoor Ed at the Blair Outdoor Ed Centre and taught with the WRDSB for more than thirty years. It was while teaching Kindergarten at Bridgeport PS when Anita started "forest school" with her class.

This year, all classes will have the opportunity for an outdoor education outing led by Anita. Anita will guide each class on a hike through Bechtel Park, exploring the natural landscape, learning about local history, and complimenting various curriculum areas in collaboration with the teachers.

School council is pleased to fund this outdoor education initiative to support our student learning outside the classroom, physical activity and mental health.

Outings will take place starting this week through to early December, and then will continue into the spring.

GAGA BALL PIT UPDATE

This past February, our dance-a-thon fundraiser raised funds for a new gaga ball pit to support fun, creative outdoor play for our students. In addition, we were granted supplementary funds from the Kitchener Grand River Rotary Club. The gaga ball pit has been ordered and will be installed when the time is right - once the covid safety protocols have been lifted and when students are able to engage in this type of play once again. We will keep you posted!

For our new families who might be wondering 'what is gaga-ball'? Gaga is a fast paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better! Dubbed a kinder gentler version of dodgeball, the game is played with a soft foam ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball. Fun and easy, everyone gets a great workout. We look forward to adding this game to the school property for all students to enjoy.



WELLNESS RESOURCES

UMBRELLA PROJECT

Did you know that everyone has an umbrella? Over the past two years, our students participated in The Umbrella Project, a curriculum program designed to help children learn the skills of emotional well-being. All classrooms focused on gratitude, grit, self-compassion, autonomy, mindfulness, resilience, intrinsic motivation, integrity and hope. Much like an umbrella protects us from the rain, each of these skills forms a piece of an umbrella that protects us from life's rainy days and helps us learn and succeed.



The Umbrella Project blog provides an excellent resource for caregivers and children to continue the learning of these important skills. Check out <https://umbrellaproject.co/blog/> for information, stories, challenges and tips.

'Rain' is inevitable, but choosing to use it as an opportunity to build our Umbrella Skills will make us stronger.

FRONT DOOR

Front Door is a free service and very helpful starting point for accessing child and youth mental health services and supports in the Waterloo Region. Front Door works with parents/caregivers, children and youth (up to their 18th birthday) who are struggling with life's challenges such as emotions, behaviours, relationships and mental health. They listen, offer support and can help you identify next steps including access to other services.

Front Door

Access to Child and Youth
Mental Health Services

For more information, call 519-749-2932 or visit www.frontdoormentalhealth.com.

STAY CONNECTED

To receive regular updates on school happenings, please be sure you are signed up for School Day and Twitter [@brpwrdsb](https://twitter.com/brpwrdsb).

Questions, suggestions or feedback to share with the school council? Reach out to us at bridgeport.school.council@gmail.com

"Bridgport School Council's mission is to advocate for our students, families and educators to support our children's holistic learning and development. We value connecting the school and community, building collaborative relationships, providing resources and sharing information."