

SCA Elementary School Council Annual Report

School: Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary Reporting Year: 2020-2021

Executive

| Name | Position |
|----------------|------------|
| Devon Marshall | Chair |
| Heather Lewis | Vice-Chair |
| Leah Schmidt | Treasurer |
| Leah Unrau | Secretary |

Other Voting Members: Shannon Anderson, Aileen Bozic, Sarah Dyck, Raelyn Mellick, Gillian Orquia, Heidi Peters, Elaine Reed & Kimberly Teeuwsen,

Meeting Dates

September 9, 2020

October 14, 2020

November 18, 2020

January 13, 2021 *Followed by an All Parent School Fees Meeting

February 17, 2021 *All Parent Society Fees Meeting

March 10, 2021

May 12, 2021

Date of First School Council Meeting of the Year: September 9, 2020

School Council Activities

The activities for the past year for the SCA Elementary School Council have included:

- Review the School Education Plan (focusing on Literacy, Numeracy and School Spirit –due to COVID-19)
- Receive Trustee Seutter’s monthly reports; have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the happenings in EIPS and Alberta Education
- Provide feedback to the principal on the educational & spiritual climate, and other aspects of school life
- Attend monthly COSC meetings
- Attend ASCA Conference (Chair) virtually
- Recruit new council members
- Fundraise through hot lunch & chip day (once approved to do so this year due to COVID)
- Support the school through initiatives & opportunities such as:

- Received COVID-19 updates and shared feedback from a parents perspective
- Received SCA Society reports through out the year
- Supported SCA Society “Society Fee Meeting” for all parents
- Staff & Bus Driver Appreciation
- Created a Staff Gift Policy
- Supported families from our school that opted for online learning this year in hopes to help them still feel connected to the school
- Supported new families who came to SCE in Grades 1-6 to ensure they have someone they can go to with questions via our Parent Ambassador
- Encouraged & supported our first Orange Shirt Day
- Organized in partnership with the school, SCA Elementary Hoodies for parents to purchase for their kids & themselves
- Provided feedback on P/T Interview options & Virtual Meet the Teacher Night, both greatly appreciated by parents
- Created a school specific prayer calendar for December
- Created & Organized a Christmas Literacy Advent Contest
- Provided feedback on staying connected with staff & school, resulting in Classroom Videos from Teachers being sent to families
- Supported EIPS’ First Nation Metis Inuit and BrightSpace Virtual Sessions
- Hosted a School Fees Meeting for all parents
- Partnered with the school in reaching out to the County to improve our traffic flow for the safety of our families and community
- Read through ASCA Resolutions & gave Chair confidence to vote on Councils behalf
- Created a Bylaw Committee, transitioned from Bylaws to new Operating Procedures
- Created a Mission Statement for School Council
- Created Roles & Responsibilities for all Executive Members
- Hosted our first Annual General Meeting virtually
- Compassion Team/Parents in Partnership, helped families in crisis or need by providing meals, support, prayers, etc
- Offered parents the opportunity to order school supplies online for Grades 4-6

- Colored our sidewalk with encouraging words and drawings from our families to our staff
- Maintained a thriving SCE Parents Facebook page
- Continued working with the school and Society on our New Playground build

Our focus as School Council this year was:

1. School Community: Build school community by creating safe opportunities for families to stay connected and engaged during COVID-19
2. Communication: Continue to engage with school Admin & SCA Society in hopes of advocating for our students & parents and increasing the dialogue/communication between school, Society and parents
3. Local Missions: On hold for this year due to COVID-19
4. Playground Project: In partnership with SCA Society, continued the process of expanding and updating our playground and sand

We acted on our focuses by the following:

1. School Community: We showed appreciation and encouraged our staff through out the year by: chalking kind words on the sidewalk leading up to the school, giving them each a custom sugar cookie along with parent led initiatives of blessing support staff & bus drivers and our custodians and Librarian at Christmas with gifts, and during the coldest week of the year, parents financially supported and organized coffee, hot chocolate, soup, oranges, donuts and cookies for our whole staff to enjoy. We also, using our Facebook page, gave parents a place to share prayer requests, their local businesses we could support, ways to give back to our community, and held a Christmas Literacy Advent contest where we encouraged families to read stories together leading up to Christmas. For the Literacy Advent we encouraged parents to post photos of their favorite books or family's reading and also posted photos of our school staff with their favorite Christmas Book and a video of Mr. Poole reading a Christmas Story. Our families so loved seeing our teachers and principal's faces! We also encouraged a week of Random Acts of Kindness and also gave parents an opportunity to grab a Starbucks on Council through an online gift card on our Facebook Page. We partnered with the Secondary to create a Prayer Calendar for the month of December that was shared with parents so even though we

were separated physically, we were able to pray together in unity. We also gave parents an opportunity to purchase SCA Elementary Hoodies.

With some of our families choosing online learning, our Parent Ambassador called them, checked in on them, asked how we could support them and encouraged them to stay connected on our Facebook Page through out the year. At the start of the year, we also gave each new student in Gr 1-6 a chocolate bar with a hand written welcome card and our Parent Ambassador reached out to our new families through out the school year as well. Through our Compassion Team, we supported families in crisis or in need with prepared meals and prayer.

At our last meeting, we approved our Operating Procedures which now allows for 9 parents to hold Executive Positions and for all parents to attend School Council meetings! This opportunity will afford all parents to be an active and supportive member of our School Council which will benefit our entire school community.

2. Communication: We were pleased to have 1-2 members of the SCA Society in attendance at all of our meetings. Our Chair was also invited to participate in some of their meetings through out the year. We are very grateful for a supportive Admin team that attends all of our School Council meetings. We currently use our Facebook Page as our main way of communicating to parents. We were able to add some information in our School Newsletter at the beginning of the year.
3. Local Missions: Out of conversations around the Council table last year, we heard parents would appreciate their children having more hands on opportunities to serve and give back locally to our community. Unfortunately COVID-19 really hindered us from moving forward with this. We were still able to continue to support local charity organizations such as We Care & Basically Babies, by collecting items at the school.
4. Playground Project: This project is progressing nicely and ground should be broken beginning of July. Thanks to many Executive Council Members and families from the school who wrote letters for grants that we applied for and for their time and energy that was invested in the designing process.

For the next year, the major areas of focus are:

- Continue to build a healthy relationship with the SCA Society and providing clear, concise and consistent communication opportunities between the SCA Society & parents
- Focus on providing communication opportunities between the school administration & parents
- Engaging all parents at our School Council Meetings
- Working together with the Admin team in finding ways for our students to intentionally serve and live out Jesus' love for our community
- Review the School Assurance Report
- Continue to provide advisory feedback to the principal on the educational and spiritual climate and other aspects of school life
- Continue to work on building school community
- Support our staff and students in overcoming any challenges due to COVID-19
- Stay current and up to date with Alberta's Government and Education Plan and Funding so we can advocate for our students

Financial Statement Attached

Devon Marshall, School Council Chair

Date: May 26, 2021