

193 responses

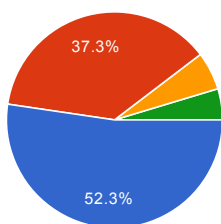
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Summary

2016/2016 Approved School Council Budget

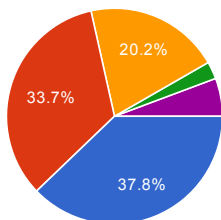
School Council Philosphy

1. Should we focus on learning experiences in our local area?



Yes, we should concentrate on hosting programs at or near the school to minimize busing time and cost	101	52.3%
No, location of programs should not influence decisions	72	37.3%
I have no opinion on this item	11	5.7%
Other	9	4.7%

2. Should parents pay for field trip bus costs?

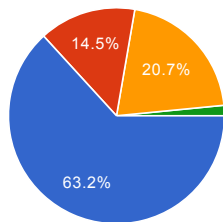


Yes, parents should pay the full cost of busing for field trips (approx. \$5-15/trip, depending on location of field trip)	73	37.8%
Yes, parents should pay partial (50%) costs of busing for field trips	65	33.7%
No, parents should not pay additional bus fees for field trips. We should continue to use School Council funds for bus expenditures.	39	20.2%
I have no opinion on this item	5	2.6%
Other	11	5.7%

Survey Structure

Recreation: Swim Program

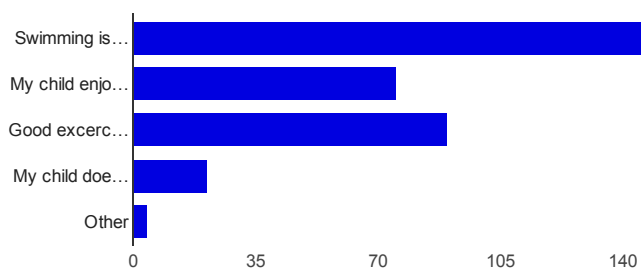
3. Should the Swim Program continue?



Continue the swimming program for all students	122	63.2%
Continue, but only grades 3 & 4 as they benefit the most from this program	28	14.5%
Discontinue the swimming program	40	20.7%
I have no opinion on this item	3	1.6%

Continue the Swim Program

Reasons to continue the Swim Program:



Swimming is a life-skill	147	98%
My child enjoys this program	75	50%
Good exercise	90	60%
My child does not take swimming outside school	21	14%
Other	4	2.7%

Comments on the Swim Program (optional)

I wish I had a bit more notice of when this was going to be taking place so that I could have volunteered to help. I need at least 1 - 2 month's notice to plan around my work schedule.

The first selection summarizes the point perfectly - It is an absolute necessity to know how to swim

I believe teachers should decide when to do swimming - fall/winter might be easier for their schedules.

We are in a program outside of school. I believe it's a life skill that all children should have the opportunity to learn. As a public school it's important that it's offered as those who don't have the chance to take lessons should be able to do so.

Please ensure children are placed in the appropriate level and moved as necessary to ensure there is learning.

I feel there is more value in the children taking the actual swim levels rather than just the swim to survive portion. I understand that can be difficult to do with some levels being only 30 mins and other 45-60 mins but I'm sure the logistics can be worked out.

I feel any physical activity program is absolutely necessary for our kids in school

The Swim Program as it exists merely provides a minimal learning experience. Although my children are more than competent (Swimming with UCSC), I think this program should actually provide a little more than the basic skills.

Doing the swim program could easily save their lives. Not everyone does swim lessons. Definitely continue it,

Only done one year. My child enjoyed it.

My child benefits greatly from this and I feel that learning to swim young can save lives.

School based swim programs are an essential aspect of education and have been proven to prevent drownings.

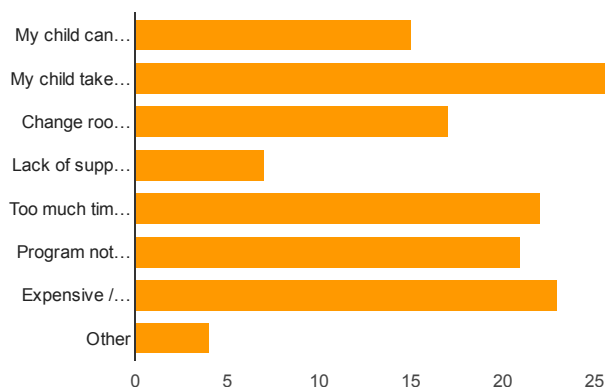
This swim program is excellent and hard to get into outside of a school program.

The swim classes should focus on stroke improvement for kids who can already swim well otherwise it's a waste of an opportunity. the kids should be split into lessons that teach them strokes appropriate for their level. Have you looked into the Shouldice pool as an alternative?

Proper swim levels vs swim to survive would receive more support.

Discontinue the Swim Program

Reasons to discontinue the Swim Program:



My child can swim so I do not need this program	15	37.5%
My child takes lessons outside school	28	70%
Change room issues / challenges	17	42.5%
Lack of support from parent volunteers	7	17.5%
Too much time away from school / learning	22	55%
Program not achieving desired outcome (Swim to Survive)	21	52.5%
Expensive / money should be spent elsewhere	23	57.5%
Other	4	10%

Comments on the Swim Program (optional)

I would support the continuing of the program if there is a sufficient amount (25% or more) of students that do not receive swimming instruction outside of the school environment / cannot swim.

Swimming is a fairly common activity and my impression is that the majority of kids will be involved in swimming in some capacity outside of school. Many kids will already be in swimming lessons which will likely exceed the skills learned in the Swim to Survive program. Swimming is also logistically challenging due to distance from school, change rooms, etc. I feel the school should work to introduce the students to activities that may be newer to them (snow shoeing, cross country skiing, etc).

This is a total waste of school time learning as well as the entire day. I do not want this program to continue at all

This program would be extremely valuable in schools where parents generally cannot afford lessons. In Springbank, most parents can afford to provide kids with swimming lessons, so this seems to be superfluous and unnecessary.

Huge waste of money as majority of kids take swim lessons.

The program at Westside is terrible. The instructors are not consistent, so the "report cards" are basically made up because the kids sometimes end up with new instructors during each session. I would STRONGLY support real swimming lessons as are done at other schools, as the kids really do love it, and look forward to it each year. Also this is a life skill, and there are still some children in our school who are unable to swim and would not survive in a water accident because their skills are very low.

Teaching swimming should not be put on the school or teachers. I consider this to be a family choice. Also, because the 6 class session is so short, the amount of time, money, and effort for the teachers to put into field trip forms and getting parents to volunteer is not worth the outcome. It's like a swim teaser. In order to actually learn how to swim, lesson need to be done 3 to 4 times a year. This again should fall on the family, not on the school. Also, as a volunteer, parents like to be able to see their child learn, see their child in the classroom. And on a swim trip parents are so busy helping all the kids (which is great) but they don't actually get to get involved in the classroom/ learning environment which is what all parents really want to see.

These lessons seem like a huge waste of resources. To have our children bus into the city for mediocre swim lessons is ridiculous! Nearly every family in our demographic would do independant swim lessons that are better quality.

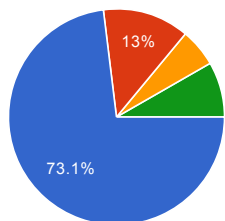
It would be more worthwhile if the kids were doing Red Cross levels, rather than swim to survive. It's a lot of time and effort.

I think that swimming is an important life skill that I would hope parents make an effort to teach their children. However, I'm not sure that the school is the best/most appropriate/ most effective provider of this opportunity. Related to the issues above but they are not the only issues I see with it.

We strongly believe the in school swimming program is not necessary based on child safety issues and it requires too much time away from school.

Recreation: In-Line Skating

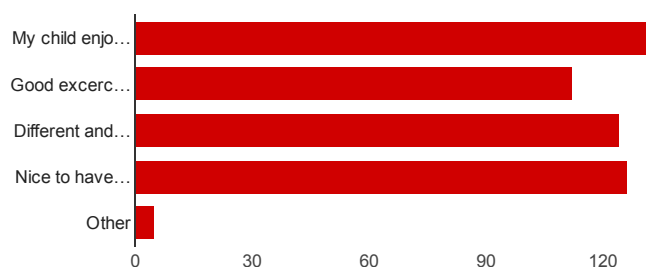
4. Should the in-line skating program continue?



Yes, continue this program annually	141	73.1%
Yes, continue but offer this every 2nd year	25	13%
No, discontinue this program	11	5.7%
I have no opinion on this item	16	8.3%

Continue In-Line Skating Program

Reasons to continue the In-Line Skating Program:



My child enjoys this activity	132	80.5%
Good exercise	112	68.3%
Different and challenging experience	124	75.6%
Nice to have activity at school rather than another location that requires busing	126	76.8%
Other	5	3%

Comments on the In-Line Skating Program (optional)

After 4 yrs of in-line skating, my child has become bored with it. Especially for those who know how to skate.

My child enjoys this and when he sees it being encouraged at school he is more inclined to come home and put on his own in-line skates and try to improve. He will usually do this for a few weeks after skating is done at school.

Having the program operate at the school reduced the amount of time the children are away from the school and being taken away from other learning opportunities.

I consider this activity to fall under the "phys ed" curriculum of skills that children can learn from. Bringing any activity like this into the school means learning for our kids. It doesn't have to be in line skating every year though. Staff and council can look at having guests come in to phys ed to teach other "non-customary" skills such as karate, hip-hop, juggling, curling etc. As long as the guests come to the school then costs are kept low but the level of learning and participation, variety and team spirit are kept high.

Could we not ask parents to pay directly for this program?

This is fun for the kids and I prefer it to lacrosse, orienteering or snowshoeing but I think the money would be better spent doing a more interesting activity off site

Seems like an enjoyable activity and the logistics make sense (no need for bussing)

My daughters LOVED it

This is such an awesome program, it would be a real shame for it not to continue.

I think these (In-school/local area) are the types of opportunities that we should try and create for the kids.

This is a fun program and students progress over the years.

Love it, please continue!

Sean, this years instructor was a favourite with both my kids. I was helper twice and he is so patient and fun with kids

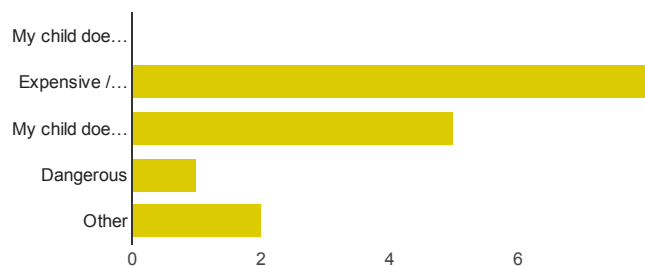
Again I feel it should be more challenging and achievement based rather than just a fun activity. But if it can't be more challenging then it's a good one to continue - at least it's something physical and fun.

We just completed the in-line skating classes, and was very impressed with Shawn from Alien in-line skating. Well organized, patient and made the classes fun for the kids.

I wonder if we could invest that \$10,000 on equipment that we get to keep? Accumulate equipment rather than spending \$10k each year.

Discontinue In-Line Skating Program

Reasons to discontinue the In-Line Skating Program:



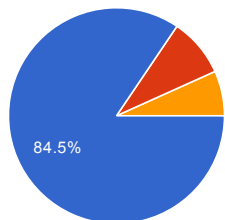
My child does not enjoy this program	0	0%
Expensive / money should be spent elsewhere	8	80%
My child does not know / need to know how to in-line skate	5	50%
Dangerous	1	10%
Other	2	20%

Comments on the In-Line Skating Program (optional)

I like the program but it does seem costly in comparison to the skating program

Recreation: Ice-Skating

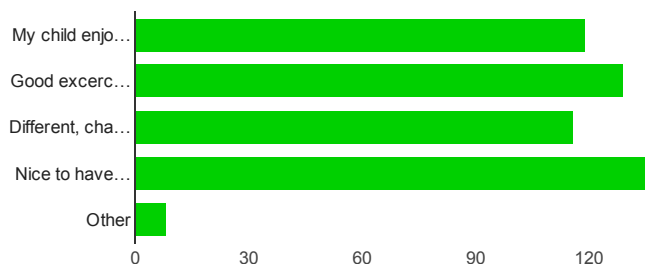
5. Should the ice-skating program continue?



Yes, continue with the ice-skating program	163	84.5%
No, discontinue the ice-skating program	17	8.8%
I have no opinion on this item	13	6.7%

Continue Ice-Skating

Reasons to continue the Ice-Skating Program:



My child enjoys this program	119	73.5%
Good exercise	129	79.6%
Different, challenging experience for kids	116	71.6%
Nice to have activity in the local area	136	84%
Other	8	4.9%

Comments on the Ice-Skating Program (optional)

If I remember correctly, the skating takes place near the holidays which makes it a festive type event for the kids

I wouldn't mind contributing to the cost of this activity at all

Now that I see the cost of this vs inline - perhaps more ice skating could replace the inline program? It seems more cost effective and I think we have walked there in the past to save on bussing costs?

Ice skating is a social skill as we live in Canada where skating and hockey go hand in hand with everyday life. All kids should learn how to skate.

great!

I like all of the activities (swimming, inline and ice skating) as it provides a variety of activities for the kids to try. The variety will help them understand options for activities and encourage them to try different things.

It would be nice if there were some organized games especially for the younger grades K & grade 1 instead of just skating in circles.

Small cost for the value of it.

My kids play hockey and they still love this but I noticed the beginner kids often have poorly fitted equipment and don't have as much fun. Perhaps an option to attend a separate beginner group with volunteer instructors might be helpful for those kids...not sure if this is possible?

Again, I think this is great as its in the local area

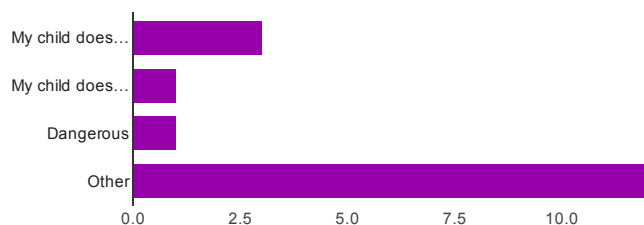
Can they achieve anything and improve skills every year?

Possible to schedule this before Christmas break when the kids are losing focus and need a change of scenery...

This is nice and close. It's in the community. Let's keep it!

Discontinue Ice-Skating

Reasons to discontinue the Ice-Skating Program:



My child does not enjoy this program	3	21.4%
My child does not know / need to know how to skate	1	7.1%
Dangerous	1	7.1%
Other	12	85.7%

Comments on the Ice-Skating Program (optional)

Suggest offering ice skate rentals should the program continue.

I think the learning of a variety of skills is valuable for any child. But like the swimming program, the cost doesn't equal the value of the activity. Put this money into phys ed equipment, phys ed guests at the school, lunch clubs etc. The time on the field trip forms, the money, the volunteers needed is all too much for a few times of skating. Plus the time away from school doesn't add up to the high cost of the program.

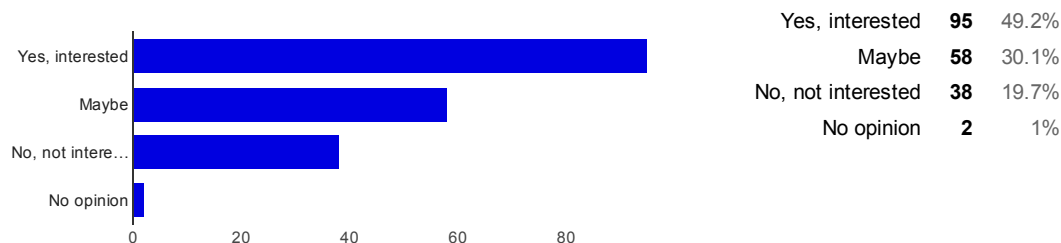
most Springbank kids know how to skate. I

While it may be fun there is no lesson format to the 45 minutes on ice. Not worth buying the skates and helmet for 45 minutes every year.

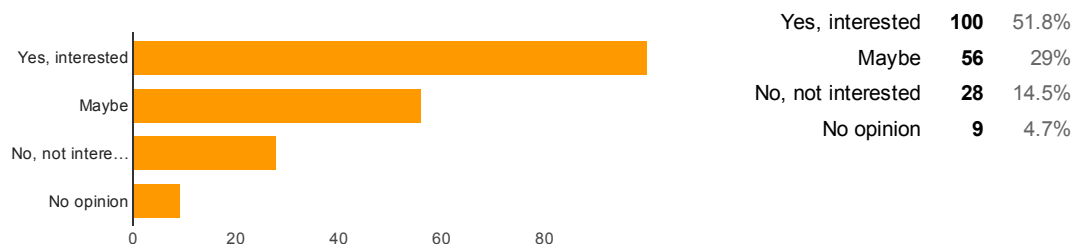
Most kids get enough ice time and if they do not then they probably need lessons. I think if it is continued lessons should be given to the Kindergarten and Grade One classes and it should not be assumed that kids can skate or that parents can be there to help there kids.

Recreation: New Ideas

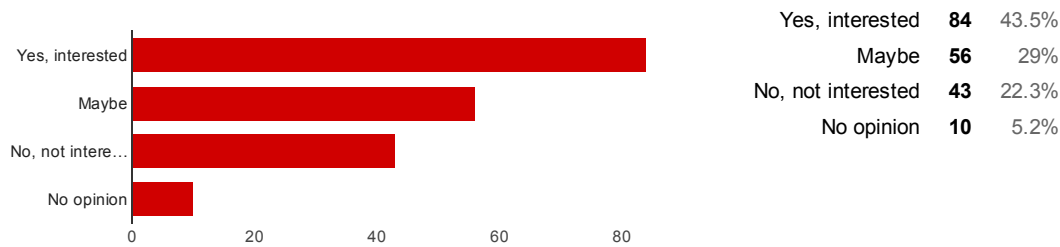
Sportball (www.sportball.ca, est cost \$5000) [6. What new activities interest you?]



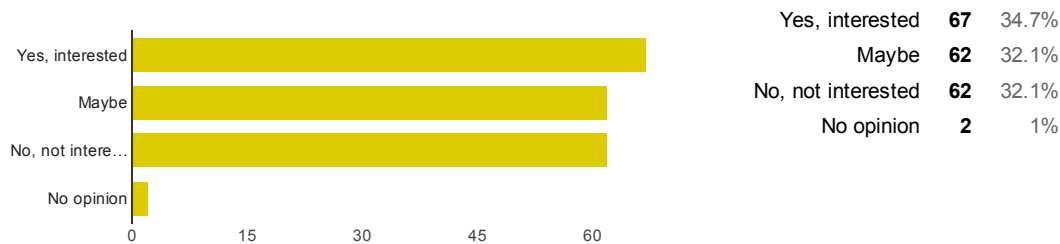
Orienteering (est. cost \$1000 to equip school) [6. What new activities interest you?]



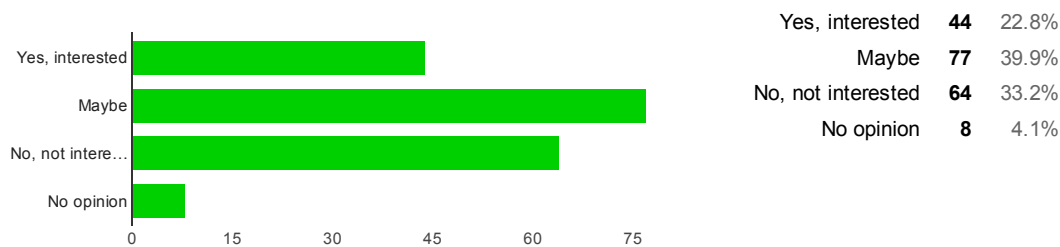
Snowshoes (est. cost \$5000 to equip school) [6. What new activities interest you?]



Lacrosse (est. cost \$5000) [6. What new activities interest you?]



Handball (est. cost \$5000) [6. What new activities interest you?]



Comments / ideas on new recreation activities funded by School Council (optional):

Fund raising events / raffles / a family dance fund raiser / request for donations

We need to keep in mind the average climate when investing in equipment for the school. Some years there is plenty of snow some there is no snow. Also we need to consider the age group and abilities of the students. I like programs like in-line skating and dance (and I would assume sportball) where the activity is easily adjusted to the age of the students. I prefer to invest in items (like the gym mats) that can be used by all grades instead of ones that cater to either the older students or the younger ones.

Orienteering seems like a great option to engage children in outdoors. I'm assuming lacrosse /handball needs to be outsourced for liability reasons (equipment) but if not, is there an option to approach clubs to participate? Could be a nice recruitment tool for them

these are all great suggestions! most is new time investment and can be used for years. I would easily give up skating for this....

I think that orienteering, snow shoeing and lacrosse are all examples of activities that he majority of students may not be exposed to outside of school. Also, while the initial cost of the equipment is considerable, the equipment costs will decrease after the first year. This would allow the council to introduce other activities / equipment in subsequent years (opposed to busing, venue rental, etc costs).

These are all excellent options that could be done at the school. Since Canada's national sport is Lacrosse it is something more Canadian kids should have exposure to. As well since 8 months out of the year kids should be exposed to more winter sport activities, besides the basic Hockey, ice skating, down hill skiing. Snowshoeing & cross country skiing are good alternatives that could occur out in the school fields.

Please put tennis on the list. Alberta Tennis center can come to school gym w mini nets and racquets at a very low cost!

A dance residency could be fun. We experienced one at our previous school that was a massive hit. The kids learned a basic hip hop style routine (K-6) and then wrapped it up with a show for each other and parents. I loved the combination of art with

athletic skills. Not every child is an athlete so it offers a chance to explore a creative avenue of self expression while still offering the exercise. We experienced a program by www.soundkreations.com highly recommended it.

The children do not need any special activities. They can focus on games and activities in the gym, eg. Dodgeball and floor hockey

I know this is not school council funded but we really need a phys ed teacher instead of 2 music teachers.

Many of these activities are not age appropriate for our students, and some are not recommended by Alberta Education for children in lower elementary school.

Outdoor Education and Wilderness Survival Skills

My kids have done sportball camps and their instructors are amazing! It is a great learning experience. I also feel since it is mostly winter weather during the school year, having the chance to try snowshoeing is a valuable experience the kids can do on their own in the future.

Yoga (I know some teachers do in class, but actual instructors. Helps with calming anxious kids) and activity that can help kids with coping strategies.

Hire guests to come into the school for two or three weeks (like the in line skating) cost that we don't have to buy equipment for. Karate, hip hop dance coaches, circus performers (like hula hooping, juggling, balancing acts etc), yoga, zumba, step, wall climbing etc.

X country skiing at Canmore Nordic centre or cop, downhill skiing, track and field team, ropes course at cop,

Anything encouraging kids to learn to love sport for life is a huge asset. Part of this is just to take action and try new things.

Hand/Eye coordination, jump, run, and thinking all at the same time, discipline, respect and safety in sport all beneficial.

The more "play" time we can do, especially outdoors, would be awesome for all the kids. I love any idea that gets them moving around more while at school.

Gymnastics

Golf - There is a program called Golf In Schools that may be suitable

Should vary yearly

Outdoor activity and skills are another fundamental life skill that more children need in their lives. Introducing these programs may give opportunity to those who may not have outside of school and give those already interested a heightened experience.

Skiing

The benefit to children ages K-4 is limited for the more costly programs given the skill sets required. They also tend to favour the interests of BOYS over GIRLS in this age group.

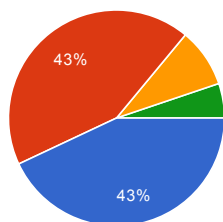
basketball, volleyball, badminton, gymnastics

cross country skiing

cross country skiing as another potential. Interested in the above new activities as long as done at the school to minimize transportation risks, costs and time away from the classroom

Sportball is fantastic. It teaches so many different skills.

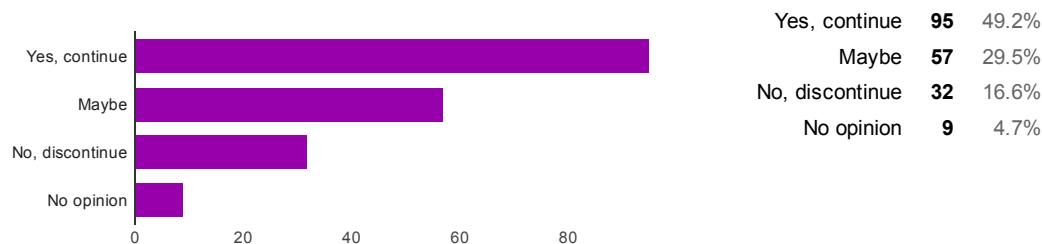
7. Would you be interested in a before-school fitness program ?



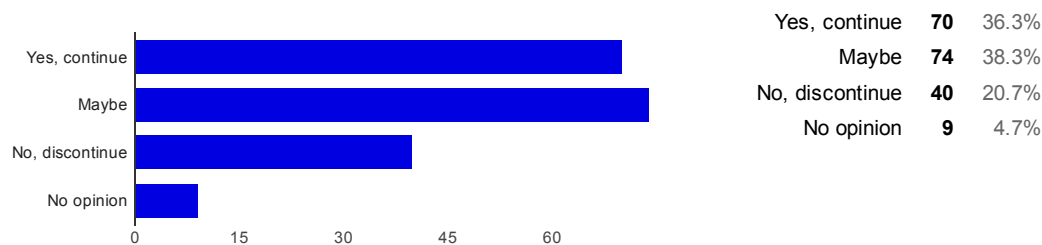
Yes, I would be interested in learning more about this program	83	43%
No, this is not a program I am interested in	83	43%
I have no opinion on this item	17	8.8%
Other	10	5.2%

Arts & Culture

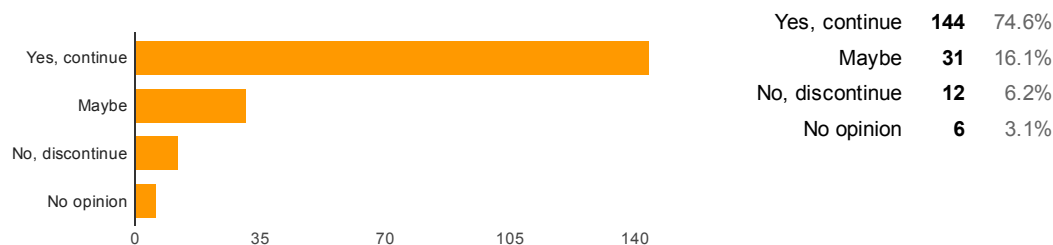
Calgary Opera [8. Please choose your level of interest in continuing existing arts & culture programming]



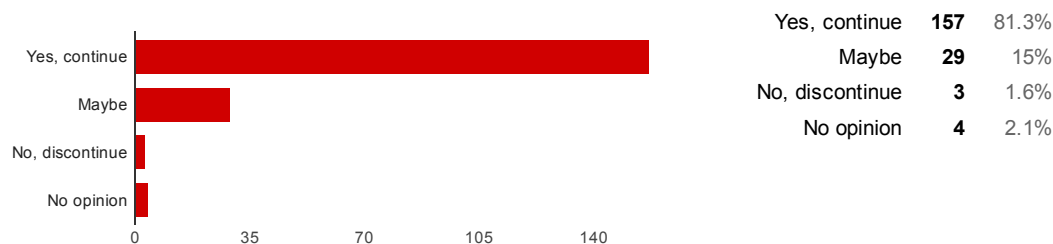
Alberta Opera [8. Please choose your level of interest in continuing existing arts & culture programming]



Dance [8. Please choose your level of interest in continuing existing arts & culture programming]



Guest presenters (i.e. John Dunn, Arctic Explorer) [8. Please choose your level of interest in continuing existing arts & culture programming]



Comments on existing arts & culture programming (optional):

My child doesn't always come home and tell me about these events, other than the dance programme, which he loves. But I feel they are good to help expose him to a variety of activities / cultures / etc

One opera per year is probably good as long as all students get to participate.

Do we need two operas?

one opera should be sufficient

Discontinue one of the opera trips bc of overlap

Why have two operas? Other options: ballet, IMAX documentaries, Drawing/Sculpture (Four Cats studio could be invited)

Ultimately it depends on cost. Many of these events are nice to have but what is the resource allocation.

opera is probably beyond the younger kids. I would be interested in a more active arts program where they go to a studio and learn and create the art (painting, sculpture etc). Guest presenters are a great idea. why is there two opera options and no other type of art? art has many forms as you know so we should find something that engages this age group of kids.

We are new to the school and did not yet experience these programs.

All excellent programs that have my child talking for days about his experiences.

My kids loved the African dance last year.

I would like to see guest presenters that can talk to the kids about self esteem, bullying, healthy social choices, etc. I know this is more for middle school and high school, but I feel that we should start earlier. Kids have such a hard time when they get into middle school and I think we should discuss these issues with the kids at an elementary level.

Has there been any discussion on offering a theatre/musical theatre presentation as an option?

Opera maybe once an a while. Its too much opera and lets be honest Opera isn't of much interest to many people.

Arts spending must be within reason.

I would like to see council money spent on more lucrative things, ie. Arts, speakers (Good Girls, Good Guys) fun activities. We need to change up things.

I think there is great value for \$ here as well as great value in exposing the kids to something different and not easily replicated at home

Fine

only one Opera

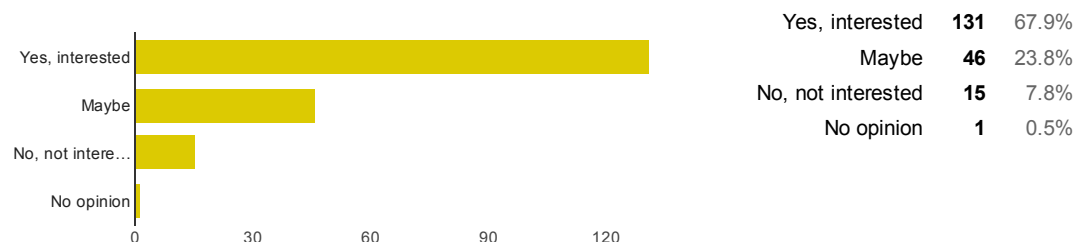
1 opera or theater presentation would be enough, an inspirational speaker instead of the other opera presentation would provide more variety.

presenters outlining travel experiences

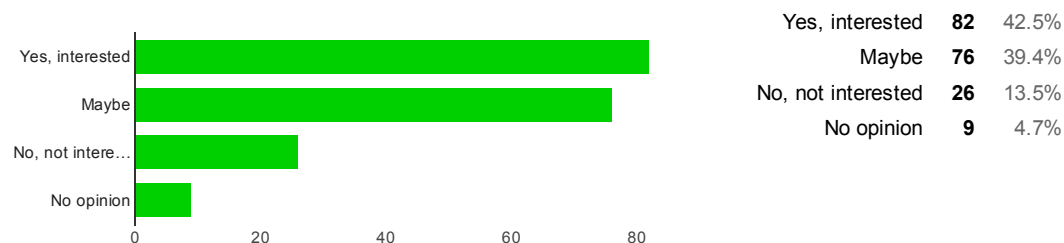
I wonder if we need both Calgary Opera and Alberta Opera.? It would be great to have some other options to choose from.

What are other schools doing that incorporate the arts? I love that our kids have this (thank you!), and I'd like to see it continue.

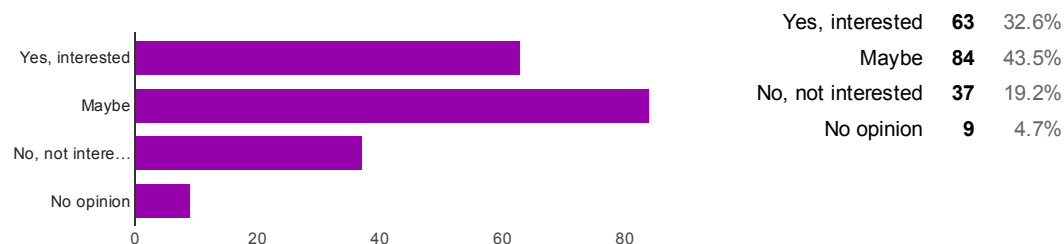
Drama / Improvisation (Quest theatre or similar) [9. Please choose your level of interest in new arts & culture programming]



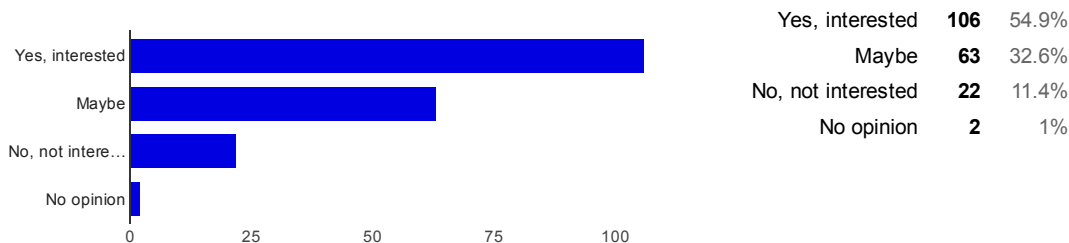
Artist in residence [9. Please choose your level of interest in new arts & culture programming]



Writer in residence [9. Please choose your level of interest in new arts & culture programming]



Creative dance (Decidedly Jazz or similar) [9. Please choose your level of interest in new arts & culture programming]



Comments on new arts & culture programming (optional):

If new options are pursued, I would support them provided they replaced existing activities (or were rotated over a couple of years). For example, I don't think we need to have 2 dance activities per year.

Having children act and improvise in front of peers (at a level they are comfortable with) is so important for future activities such as presentations and job interviews. I really like this idea. Dance is super fun but at various levels can be difficult to engage all

IS there an art program that would get the kids involved? Not just artist in residence. Not sure how much the kids benefit if nothing formal is planned.

I am not familiar with the writer in residence or artist in residence programs, therefore can not comment.

From other experience, Sound Kreations has better programming than DJD.

whatever you choose, make it hands on learning.

Loved our past experiences with Sound Kreations (hip hop) these options are all valuable.

I think at the Elementary level, drama and dance is more fun for them rather than seeing an artist or writer. Lots of movement opportunities too.

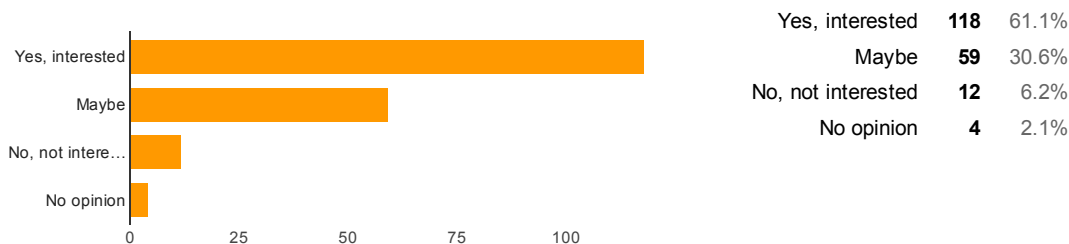
Any cultural experience is a positive one. Pity there are so few

I think there is great value for \$ here as well as great value in exposing the kids to something different and not easily replicated at home

These activities are of limited value for the age cohort. Drama and creative dance favour GIRLS over BOYS. Artists and Writers in residence are fine but their cost-benefit must be weighed in relation the value they add to existing programs not sure it fits under art and culture but would like to see outside programs that encourage conflict resolution, inclusion, how to be a good friend, etc. Also seminars/workshops on street safety, home safety, manners and etiquette, exposure to different professions and university faculties/programs, motivational/positive attitude seminars, discussions on money awareness, budgeting, saving vs spending etc.

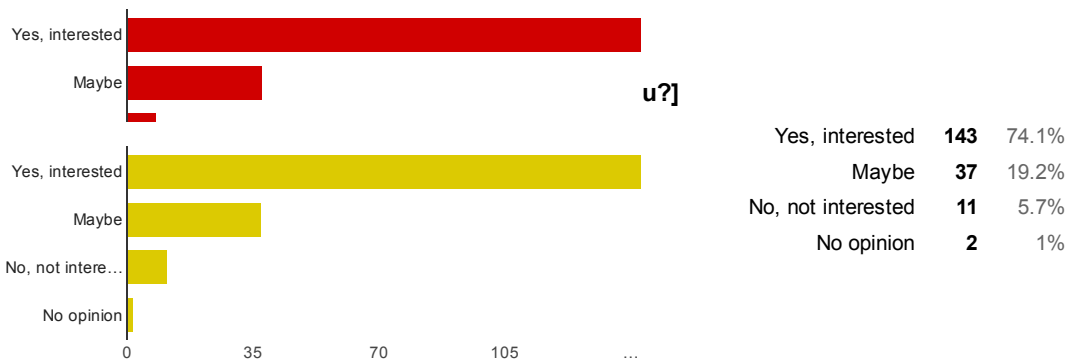
Learning Commons

Lego (for storytelling, math, etc.) [10. Learning Commons: What ideas interest you?]

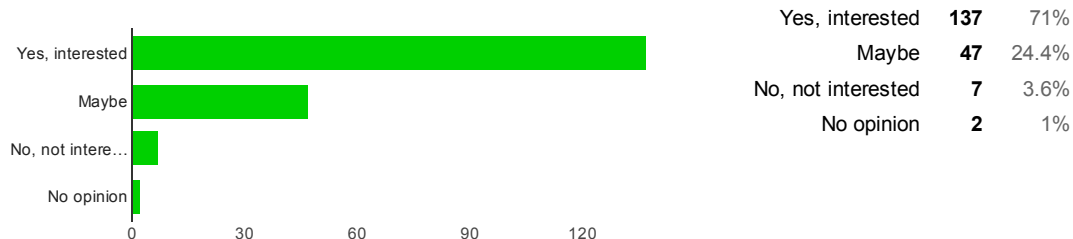


Building materials (blocks, magnets, natural materials, etc.) [10. Learning Commons: What ideas interest you?]

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes, interested	144	74.6%
Maybe	38	19.7%
No, not interested	8	4.1%
No opinion	3	1.6%



Art supplies [10. Learning Commons: What ideas interest you?]



Comments on Learning Commons (optional):

All are important but in our kids' futures robotics (and creating a love of..) is so important. They will require it and many of our generation don't know enough to pass on our knowledge. Lego touches on many aspects and appeals to all Arts and building materials are also important but are accessible through various outlets so perhaps a lesser priority from launch??

Middle school has robotics, teach the basics in elementary. Classrooms have art suplys I believe

University of Calgary runs an excellent program on Robotics for kids. Also, other ideas - computer language programming, personal finance, gardening.

Art seems to do well in the classroom. Limit messy activities in learning commons

I would prefer to steer clear of using a corporations product (ie LEGO) as part of the school curriculum. this is just a marketing ploy to sell more lego. I like the idea of using generic building products or better yet using stuff found in nature.

The Learning Commons is still meant to be a quiet place for students, and is sometimes the only place that is quiet for them to escape. The curriculum is so packed as it is that adding more (ie: robotics) is just not feasible. When are they supposed to do these activities? Art supplies and books to do not mix.

Robotics, Lego, art supplies and building materials are immensely important materials to brain development in children. Please a locate resources to these areas.

All excellent ways to make learning fun.

By answer is a BIG YES to all of the above. Designing tasks and lessons around manipulative is so important for children development and learning. Especially girls right now, need support and encouragement to take on typically what only boys have been allowed to do in the past. All of the items above encourage thinking like an engineer, a coder, an architect etc. DESIGN THINKING and the design process is so important in learning and teaching right now. I am hoping the teachers at Elbow Valley will become more familiar with Design Thinking and Galileo Task Design in the next few years and start embedding these modern practices in order to build and improved teacher capacity . I would also like to see a Maker Space set up once the learning commons is up and running.

Keep the books and have library a time where children are read too! They can play lego at home!

Love the idea of natural materials. Another thought -is there a way to incorporate growing plants into this or another program?

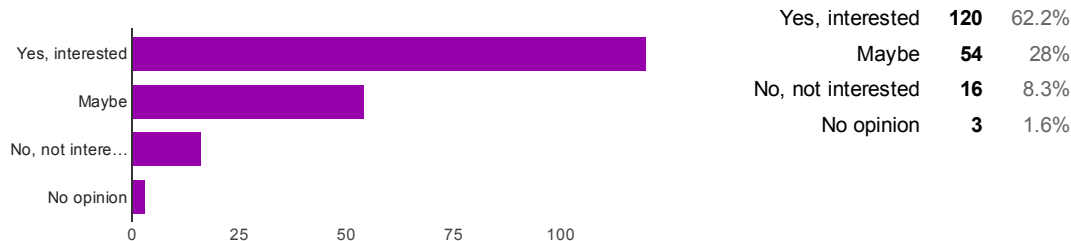
I think legos are used so much at home that there isnt a huge need for them, plus most kids are over legos by 2nd grade

Lego is 20th century technology that has been replaced by the new Nordic exploratory building activity/game Minecraft in the 21st century, building materials must have a specific educational purpose beyond filling time. Robotics requires cognitive and technical skills for value-added beyond that of the age cohort. Art supplies benefit and enhance the educational learning environment for the entire age cohort.

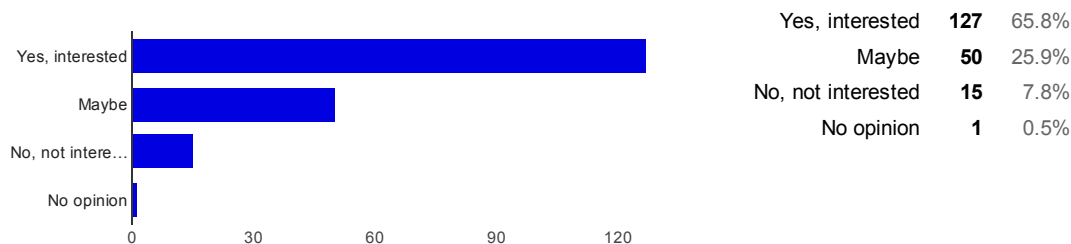
Would love to see more of an emphasis on French things as well. I.e. More books, French resources, French computer programs etc., along with the interesting items you have listed.

Classroom Environment

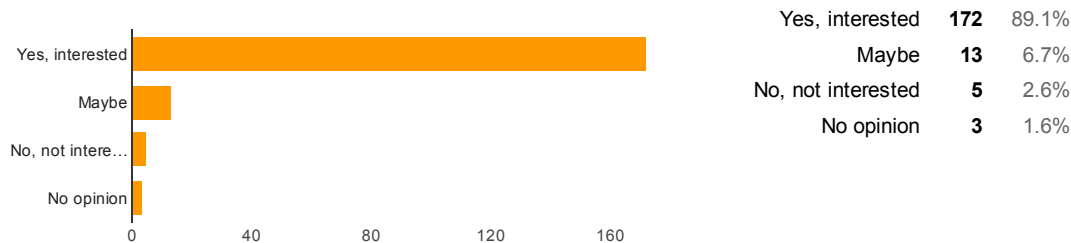
Classroom subscriptions (math, reading) [11. Classroom Environment: What ideas interest you?]



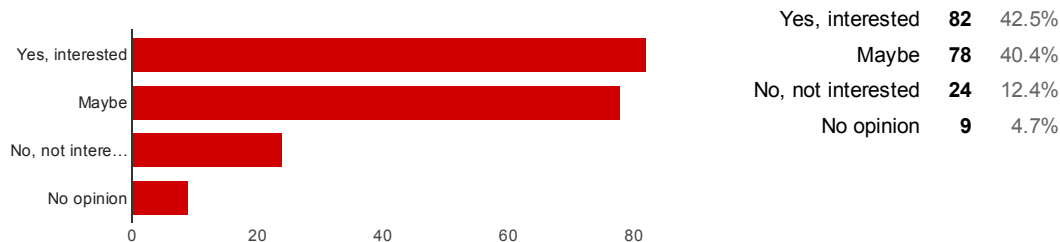
Computers / iPads [11. Classroom Environment: What ideas interest you?]



STEAM Workshops (science, technology, engineering, art, math) [11. Classroom Environment: What ideas interest you?]



Whiteboard Walls in Classrooms (<\$5000) [11. Classroom Environment: What ideas interest you?]



Comments on Classroom Environment (optional):

I am not too sure what each of these entails. I am concerned about too much use of iPads / computers during class hours, and would like to know how this will be used.

Do not support using Apple products exclusively, many people do not use them at home, also teaches the children that this is "the product" to use or buy.

Computer and iPads should not be introduced to school aged children (i.e. 5-11 yrs old). The main reason is because they do not evolve the correct pathways to think on their own, but rather have some machine do it for them.

I think that developing learning skills and collaborative problem solving skills is an essential part of education at this level, and that the STEAM workshops and white board ideas will encourage that learning.

Whiteboard Walls begin to lose their relevancy as handheld devices are supplied/used/networked.

Are we not able to start slowly incorporating SMART board technologies in the class rooms instead of white boards?

Does the school have smart boards?

Prior to taking on any initiative I would like to see some research regarding the benefit of use, relative to the per student cost.

hard to answer if I am not entirely sure of what benefit each item brings. ie what is the difference between whiteboard panels and whiteboard walls in the sense of learning??? whats a STEAM workshop?

The current Macbooks are so old that many of them will no longer charge. They need replacing badly or we will soon not have a class set for students and they will have to share and have less access. The ipads also can not handle many of the new apps as they are short on memory. This is where council money should be spent.

I am so excited to hear that STEAM is being talked about by the council and staff. Moving the school forward towards something as powerful as a STEAM mindset in teaching and learning will be valuable to the future successes of our kids for their adult lives and professions.

The classrooms need more skylights and windows. I am very sad that my child spends their days in a room with no windows and a teeny tiny skylight. Some of our classrooms are horrible. Put in more skylights! Our aim should be classrooms where they do not need to turn the lights on in the day to see well! Numerous studies are out there showing how bad it is for children to be away from natural light. Spend money on more skylights and natural light options!

Very supportive of embracing technology (computers) for our kids, however extremely concerned about kids' inference that they are not to engage with traditional (hand written, physical paper books, etc) materials for learning - in middle school and high, all is about using technology for homework/etc. Technology is important, however we must recognize that these are only tools and not active elements of our kids development. Many of us are already struggling with our kids' computer addictions, which according to AHS is becoming a very prominent addiction in our kids. Does the benefit outweigh the risk ?

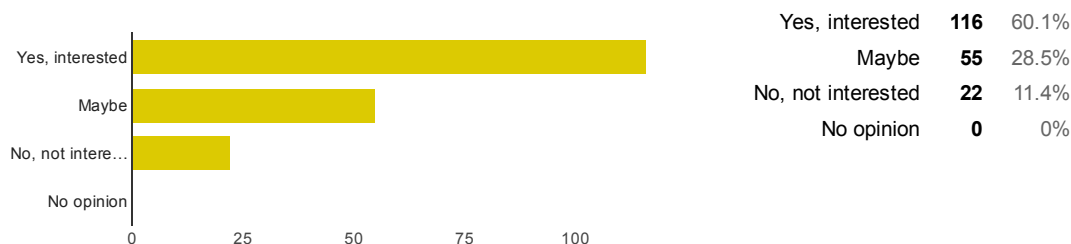
What ever the staff thinks they need should be bought

We need LESS technology in the school and more hands-on learning which kids love. Woodwork. Crafts (with learning) . Etc

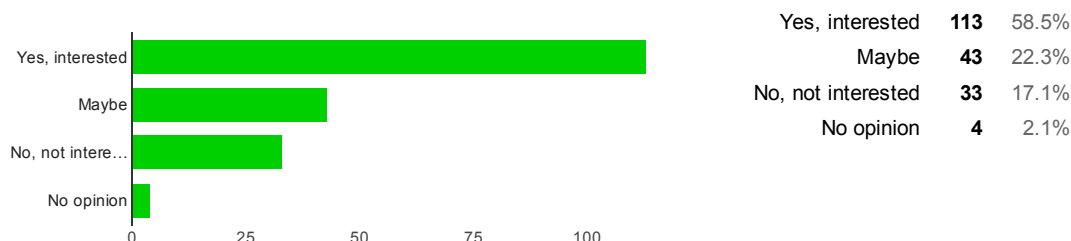
It seems that a lot of teacher time is wasted dealing with the details of technology (getting it to work) instead of actually teaching.

Outdoor Environment

Outdoor Classroom (\$10,000) [12. Outdoor Environment: What ideas interest you?]

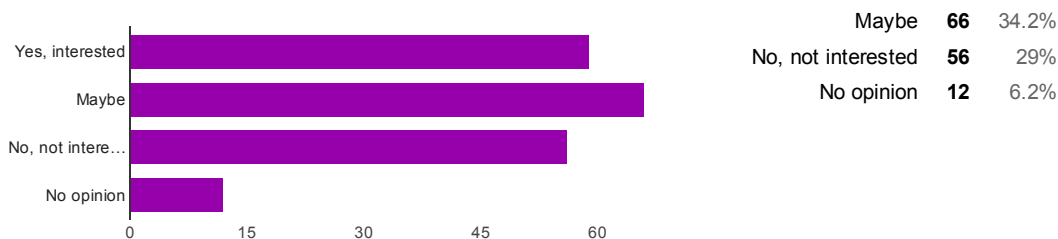


Outdoor Garden (\$15,000) [12. Outdoor Environment: What ideas interest you?]

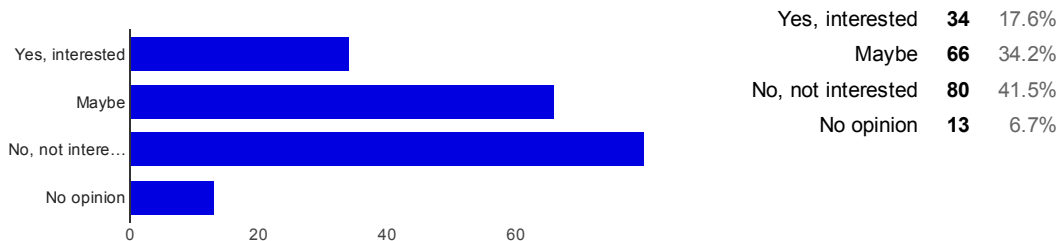


Wind Shelter (\$5,000 annually) [12. Outdoor Environment: What ideas interest you?]

Yes, interested 59 30.6%



New Playground (\$250,000) [12. Outdoor Environment: What ideas interest you?]



Comments on Outdoor Environment (optional):

Learning through play is important and so I would highly encourage more playground equipment. There are certain parts of the school that are very affected by wind and if these could be sheltered it would be more pleasant for students, staff and parents affected by this.

We have to be very cognizant of the climate and the school year when investing in outdoor initiatives. I am not the most knowledgeable gardener but have found with the frost and short growing season it is challenging to have a successful outdoor garden in this area. I also think that an outdoor garden may require a very large time commitment both initially and ongoing that must be considered before deciding to go ahead with this project. Another thing to consider is that the students are out of school for July and August and arrangements would have to be made to look after the garden in this period. I think that given the cost, the time commitment and the challenges an outdoor garden will bring, School Council would really need to weight the benefits of the garden against these challenges before proceeding.

We already have a nice playground, let's add something different to encourage outdoor play.

I am not familiar enough with the condition of the existing playground to comment. I do feel that promoting outdoor learning is becoming more and more important, as our living environments tend to become more and more indoors oriented. An outdoor garden is an excellent idea.

Very interested in a natural playground not just another metal jungle gym

An garden would be such a wonderful and needed activity to incorporate into the children's learning!!

Need more information regarding the wind shelter.

The playground is extremely windy. I'm not sure if an entirely new playground is needed, but we need to block some of that wind!

They playgrounds we have are great. But kids need to experiences nature and have room to role play, play team games, look to nature to explore and build. So many exciting learning experiences come from playing the woods or building with logs and mud and leaves. The playgrounds are already there, let's start thinking of what else we can ADD to children's experiences through play instead of just making a bigger playground.

Rather than another giant metal playground! get a natural playground. Number one priority is to put in a forest of trees and bushes for the kids to play in. Add some hills to the landscape with a slide in it. Add some really big rocks. A playground on the parent pick up side would be awesome! I think a lot more people would socialize after school at the playground if it was on the other side of the school.

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the idea of more outdoors!!!! (I'd love to see the outdoor classroom or playground come first, then garden later.)

I would be more interested in an outdoor garden if it was timely. School is out in June, alot of outdoor gardens are no where near ready.

With the weather, spending \$ on outdoor classroom seems silly. We currently have benches that can be used and the hill. For the limited time this space could be used, I think what we have is sufficient.

Had a community garden at our old (private) school. Kids loved it

Outdoor Garden is great for kids to learn where their food comes from

The playground we have already is awesome, I do not think we need a new one.

Outdoor activities of the kind contemplated provide enriched learning and creative opportunities for the entire age cohort.

kids could start a community garden in spring - maybe volunteers can maintain it through summer - then the harvest can be donated to the food bank in fall

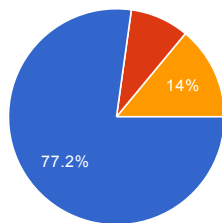
My son went to CFIS and they had an outdoor garden but it only lasted a year and was never kept up. Since our growing season is short and school is out for July and August I do not see it being kept up unless there are significant parent volunteers making it happen.

This seems excessive. We already have two playgrounds. 250k is a lot of money.

A garden is a nice idea, but in reality, our gardening season doesn't start until late May or early June and it's a lucky year where we don't get frost before the September long weekend. Kids are on summer holidays during the gardening season. A greenhouse set up would be more useful in our climate. This is the opinion of an experienced gardener.

Fundraising

13. Family Dance



Yes	149	77.2%
No	17	8.8%
I have no opinion on this item	27	14%

Do you have any recommendations for improving the family dance (optional)?

Can we do a 50/50 draw? Or does a lottery license cost too much?

Hand out the glow sticks to the kids as they are entering / paying. Kids can be sneaky to try and get more than 1 glow-stick and some kids end up not getting one.

Maybe a staggered entry/time slot for kids based upon age? It was a little chaotic trying to get into the door last year.

Silent auction, 50/50 Raffle

It is a great fundraiser, but so packed with people that you can't enjoy it. Too many parents standing in the hallways, not dancing with their children. I suggest having K-2 for 2 hours then 3-4 2 hours

The last school we were at used parent volunteers for things that could be purchased at the dance that raised money. There was a bake sale, face painting, tatoos, various dollar store items (usually that lit up or glowed) that added to the dance. As well there could be silent action, items that were donated (one year chairs were provided that kids painted and then were actioned off) The items can be anything, from goods to services...

I have attended this event in the past and find it very overwhelming for both of my children. The event is very crowded, dark and dis-organized. I like the idea of the baskets as well as a dance for the children, but do we really need to add additional parent bodies in the gym for 4 hours? By the time my family was able to get to where the snacks were they were all gone. If you were to hold the same type of even during an afternoon for only the kids or maybe on a Saturday afternoon for the whole family, that way the young children don't get exhausted from a full day of school and then a dance.

We have not experienced the event as we are new to the school.

Have it start earlier.

Would love to see this moved to a Friday night. It makes for a late night, the kids are hyper and the next day is never fun.

Tell the DJ to turn the music down! All the kids with sensory issues were in the hallway crying. It was insanely loud. We need to remember that there are kids that are only 5 and under there as well. If it is like that this year, we will likely not support it for years to come.

family dance is way too loud! Have a silent auction. each class has to organize a basket of goodies.

A dedicated quiet room

This will be the first one I attend

Square dance with a caller

More seating for adults. Healthy snack options.

You'd make more money if you held it somewhere with a bar (max 2 drink tickets per adult)..I'm sure there'd be several objections to this but I'm not the only one who thinks it would be a great idea.

This is a great way to get out with the family and have fun while raising money for the school

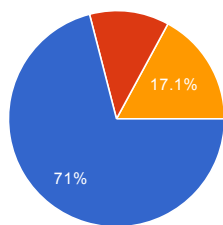
The date is terrible. A lot people go away for the holiday break and usually take a few extra days off. I think you need to rethink your date so it doesn't fall so close to the break. We've missed it the last 3 years. I do think it's a good fundraiser.

I'd rather pay for bussing to field trips than have this which is essentially a cash call.

Would you consider having the dance earlier in the year?

Set aside a quieter area for kids who don't like the noise and for parents who would like to reconnect and talk.

14. Math-a-thon



Yes **137** 71%

No **23** 11.9%

I have no opinion on this item **33** 17.1%

Do you have any recommendations for improving the Math-a-thon (optional):

Its weird explaining this one!

I liked the idea presented at the October meeting of aligning the quizzes with the math facts that they should know from the prior grade. I also liked the idea of having a per grade summary of what the kids will be doing.

Provide lots of time for kids to raise funds (two weeks is too short).

Combine with other STEM initiatives? Alternate between math, science, etc. programs each year?

Love the idea of math all day... not a huge fan of sending my daughter to collect pledges.

Get new ideas for fundraising

Attach it to mathletics! School subscription service

Link it to learning outcomes more, give parents an opportunity to prepare kids for their work

harder math, the kids say it's too easy

Change the format, as currently is a bit of a joke.

My child was in Kindergarten last year and I really had no idea what Math-a-thon was. There was no real explanation as to what they would be doing, therefore no way to measure what a good donation would be. I think it needs to be explained based on a grade level as to what they will be doing.

Make it applicable, not just a 'money grab'. There seems to be a lot of volunteer hours and work.

I don't like all the pressure to give money for the math a thon. It seems like it is a chance for all the rich families at school to show off how much money they have. Parents feel pressured to give lots of money.

Maybe something different then Math every year, Spelling, Geography. Or possibly a school wide or classroom team challenge or activity. Human Knots or obstacle course.

The activity is pretty sparse. Either up the activity or just ask parents for a one time donation to cover the costs of things, in lieu of having math a thon

I think the parents should know the kids real results, not the corrected versions. Nice to know how your kids are doing with simple math.

TEACH KIDS PROPER MATH SKILLS

Can it be done online so you need less volunteers?

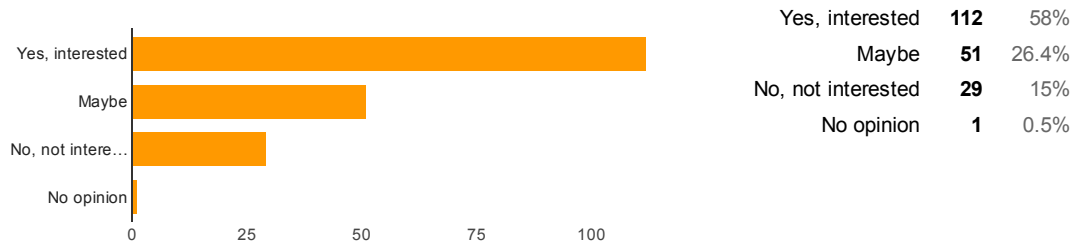
This is just an excuse for raising money doing something that parents imagine is important and the kids hate it because it is fake. I would recommend doing away with a fake fundraiser and have the children do art projects for a portion of the day that are then "sold" or auctioned off to raise funds.

I think that this has run it's course.

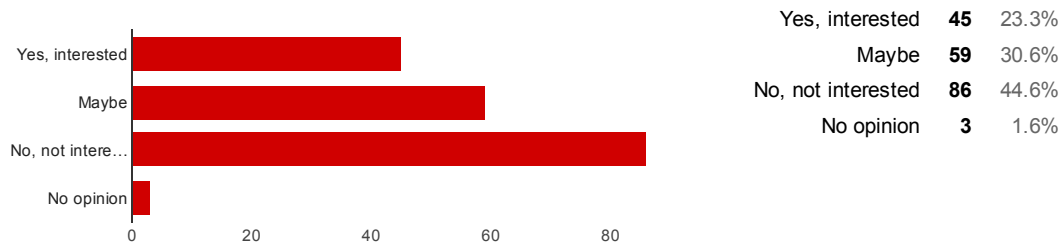
The fact that the kids have to work a bit for this fundraiser is a good thing.

Focus on math facts.

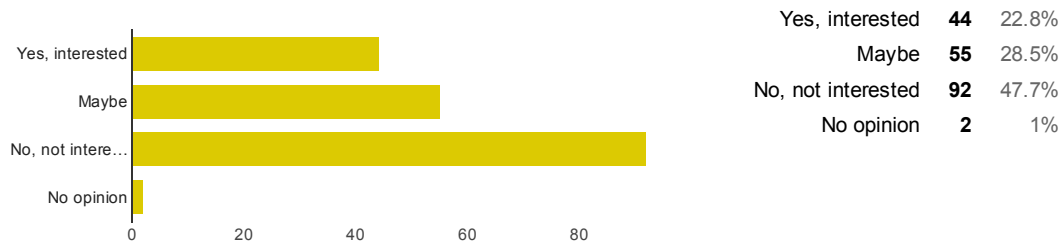
Family Carnival [15. New Fundraisers:]



Evening Gala (adults) [15. New Fundraisers:]



Sale of product (chocolate, flowers, etc.) [15. New Fundraisers:]



Do you have any recommendations for new fundraisers (optional):

More family focused events - I really like the idea of a family carnival

Apples! www.davisonorchards.ca/about/fundraisers

Recycling programs (bottle drives, recycling copper from dead/old Christmas lights), Live and silent auctions at already held events, Casino.

Selling grocery cards (buyer receives exact dollar amount they pay for, grocery store give a bulk discount on purchase, school nets the amount of the discount)

The sales of products I would be in favor of, but is very dependent of what the products are. Good items to sell could be simple simon pies (local), mabel's labels (everyone already uses for labeling their kids stuff), etc. I think the scouts & girl guides have a lock on the popcorn & cookie market.

Auction

raffles for larger prizes?, casino volunteering, safeway gift cards etc

Selling Apples from an orchard. I buy them every year!!

I am concerned the school is spending too much time on activities and sending home homework rather than focusing on teaching the basics at school, during school time. I don't think it makes sense to have homework sent home and the kids are busy spending time in activities.

Sale of magazine subscriptions/photo books, wine (raffle or wine tasting), Spolumbo's sausage, silent auction, Mabel's labels, Spring plant sale (perhaps includes small plants grown from seeds in the classrooms?)

Poker night/casino night, cookbook,

how about family games night, and international foods potluck. each class has a table of food. Food is purchased with tickets you need to buy. each class is responsible for a few fun games, playing the games requires purchasing a games passport. Silent auction family back to school picnic in September. families can purchase food.

I support fundraisers that have the kids involved in an activity (Math-a-thon, Turkey Trot) as it gets them involved and they can have fun while doing it.

Sale of products which are necessities can be very beneficial. One organization that I am aware of focused on these and generated very significant funding as targets buy these notwithstanding to continue their home "operations". This includes daily items like meat, poultry, fish (all can be frozen) and staples like flour, sugar, etc. Chocolate, cookies, etc are luxuries (thus not required purchases) and frankly most of us daily combat to not consume these.

A sponsored event that also has some community or charity action

Any new fund raisers should not be labor intensive. Especially if the end amount raises is not sufficiently more.

Yes the grocery card fundraiser, ask at Coop or Safeway. Raised tons of money this way at old school and best of all parents don't have to pay a penny

Student Union Ticket books are great fundraiser items.

Master Meats

The school seems a little small for a Carnival, so that would have to occur in the warm months or elsewhere.

I don't need an excuse to donate money to the school for agreed upon school activities projects and will donate funds regardless of what my personal preferences are for fundraising so long as the decisions about what to raise funds for are determined democratically. I can't imagine that any busy working parent would have the time for any of this sort of nonsense and would prefer that we all donate according to our economic ability to contribute. Time is money in our current economy and spending huge amounts of time that would otherwise be spent earning money in the formal economy totally defeats the purpose of the fundraiser. It becomes a make work project for stay-at-home parents who are disproportionately women.

Coco Brooks pizza, Ukrainian sausage,

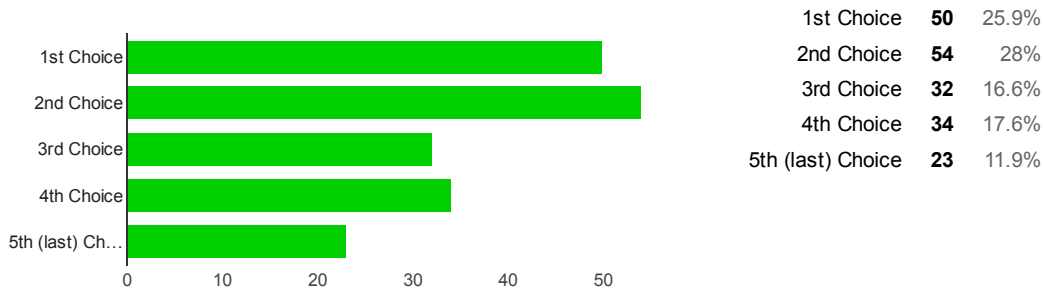
Silent Auction

Parent run casino

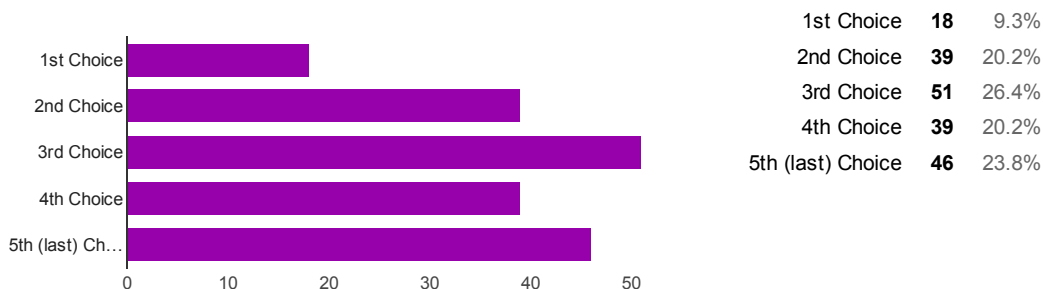
So many families suffer fundraiser fatigue from having to sell, sell, sell for every activity. Unfortunately I don't have any good suggestions, especially in this economy.

Priorities

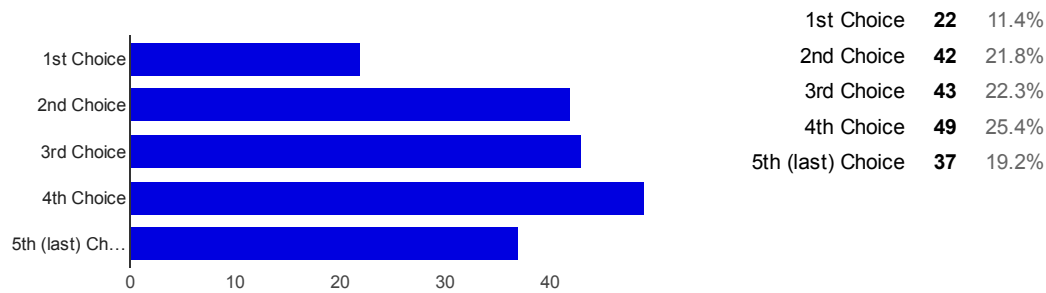
Recreation [16. In your opinion, where should we focus School Council dollars?]



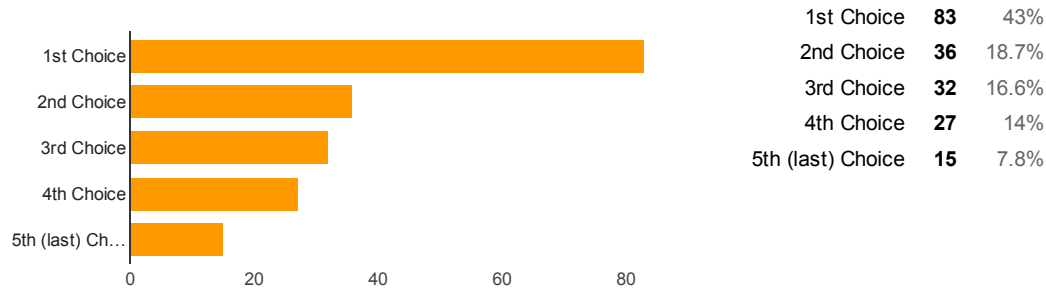
Arts & Culture [16. In your opinion, where should we focus School Council dollars?]



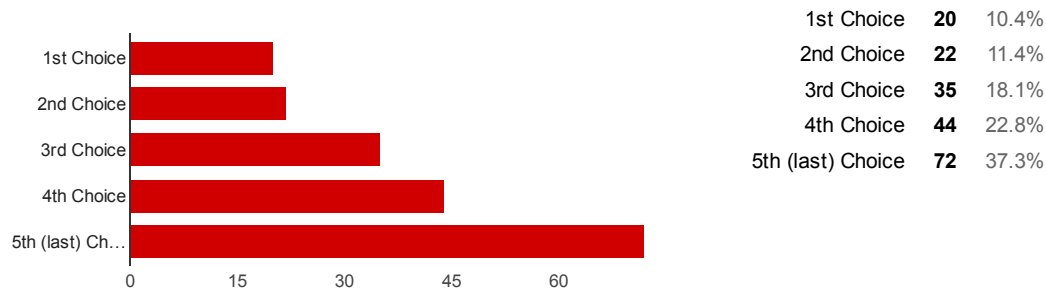
Learning Commons [16. In your opinion, where should we focus School Council dollars?]



Classroom Environment [16. In your opinion, where should we focus School Council dollars?]



Outdoor Environment [16. In your opinion, where should we focus School Council dollars?]



Do you have any comments on prioritization of School Council monies? (optional):

focus on academic achievement using proven & new methods

The option above did not let me place two areas in a tie position, if given that choice I think that I feel that recreation and classroom environment would be tied for 2nd place.

Less bussing!

Prioritize those activities that can be enjoyed by all. Be mindful of ongoing operating / maintenance costs when investing in new items.

I would enjoy seeing Parent Council host a couple of Open Houses with concept ideas, thought-leaders, project champions, etc. regarding the ideas that are proposed. I don't think the Parent Council meetings necessarily "invite" the opportunity to see all the ideas/concepts/plans in a presentation format; the meetings are what they are, updates. Good way to get the administration, Parent Council committees, external resources and greater administration (Superintendent, School Trustee) all together for parents to see in full detail what is being proposed and where funds are going to be directed - and what the outcome is oriented to be. "Meetings" is not always a great word to round-up support and attention. They are important, obviously, in the background or this kind of work wouldn't get done, but they don't incite excitement that people can buy in to and rally in support of. Just a thought.

I think these all have an equal importance, kids learn (and enjoy) more from an experience and being engaged than simply listening to a lecture. So anything that supports this sounds great to me.

Should be focused on education and resources to aid in children's education.

did I see some budget spent on staff training in the first slide? what is that for? shouldn't staff training be part of the regular budget?

Providing the best possible learning environment should be first.

Just to focus on more physical activities possibly renting out the gym for after school programs like sports ball. Could also be a money generator for subleasing the gym after hours.

1. Keep many of the recreation opportunities currently open to students. 2. New computers to replace the current cart computers. 3. New books for the learning commons (the current budget doesn't go far)! Our selection is poor and many have been weeded out, and more classroom TEACHER input is needed, so the money can be spent efficiently and curriculum topics can be supported.

Adding a school garden is new trend that other schools have adopted. This would be of tremendous benefit to the children.

Outdoor Activities (Class Gardens and Outdoor Classroom/Activity Centre)

More skylights in the classrooms!

I think all of the above are important so hopefully school council can find ways to support all of the above to some extent...I found it hard to prioritize recreation versus arts & culture and outdoor environment.

It should as the staff requests. Parents have a lot of great ideas, but teachers are there to teach a curriculum, and not parents passion projects. While I appreciate their enthusiasm, those projects and interests should be introduced to the students by the parents. The teachers are wonderful and love our kids, we need to remember it's a job

This is a case by case thing for me. The cost benefit of an outdoor environment item could easily be a priority over, for example, a learning commons item.

K-4 Students benefit the most from educational experiences that also take them out of the classroom and due to the way in which elementary schools are funded these activities tend to take a back seat to classroom learning. Outdoor activities build the mind and the body in ways that empower children to pursue creative, physical and intellectual activities that are limited by the classroom.

transportation is a very expensive use of school funds, would prefer this money be spent to enhance the school itself, starting with the classroom experience on a daily basis and then adding activities in arts and culture and some recreation that can be done at the school. Some of the recreation becomes redundant to what parents are already doing with their children on a weekly basis such as swimming and skating.

Help School Council Improve!

17. Do you have any suggestions for School Council?

Great Job!

This was a really well thought out survey and well articulated. Thank you!!! And great job :)

Smartphones are changing the behavior of all of us, whether were in school, at work, or at home. They are changing and shaping our lives like no other time in human history, in a very short period of time. The effects of this are likely negative in the long term, but also in the short term. I think it is important for all schools to limit and monitor smartphone activity of the children. They need to know how to cope with out this technology, interact with one another, and use their minds to think through things. Thanks.

Thanks for all the hard work you put in, great survey!

No, thanks for asking for parent input though!

The council is doing a great job. Please continue to be cognizant of opportunities to invest in areas which will have continuing value to the school (equipment, learning commons & class room development, etc) rather than one time cost areas.

Can the 'day' Council meeting be later in the day (EG 3pm), rather than 1pm to enable better attendance for those that work?

I've previous gone to council and tried to change fundraisers etc, Cecilia would not consider. Hoping new principle likes new ideas with parents, she already is easier to work with, change is good! Please get rid of swimming.

Should provide more written updates and opportunity for feedback from parents who can not attend the council meetings.

Doing a great job, would be nice to see some new residencies, drama, art or something of that nature.

School food program last year was promoting poor health choices. we need to ban chocolate milk, pizza and other sweets. we should have a program where kids are given nutritional goals or calorie goals and select a food program that is actually healthy.

Teachers should not be permitted to reward kids with sugar! frustrating trying to keep our kids healthy when there are bad influences at the school. perhaps this years program is better??

focus more on physical activities since there is no phys ed teacher. Eeve kids need more physical activities.

Thank you for all your hard work. I know each person on council works endless hours to help our students and our school.

I would like to see lunch clubs. I am very disappointed and surprised to hear there is no choir, no maker space, no team games in the gym, no Scratch or Minecraft (pre-curser to coding) or computer clubs, no art club, no boards games club, no writing club, no reading club, no photography club. These are easy clubs for staff to run, partner up and do once every two weeks etc. Some kids don't have many friends to play with at lunch, some kids need some creative outlets that are not necessarily planned like structured lessons. Maybe begin a discussion with staff and administration around lunch club beginning this year or next. There must be some teachers who want to run informal clubs (not all have to of course!)

Provide more opportunities for parents to get to know each other. Allow more volunteer opportunities for parents where their babies can come in to school. Don't allow the same volunteers to have the volunteer positions each year. Pol for new people. provide more opportunities for parents to get to know one another. Coffee mornings for each grade. Have monthly presentations for parents by someone in the community (ie car seat safety, children speech, health,

Thank you for all your hard work!

I would really like to see a francophone homework club

Let the staff dictate the needs of the school instead of the parents trying to implement their wants and needs.

We want to recognize the Council and thank them for their efforts and commitment to the school. Bravo!

You are doing a fantastic job. My child is having a great learning experience

See what is working for other elementary schools to get some fresh ideas

No

Keep up the good work and thank-you for all that you do for us; it's greatly appreciated!

Thank you for all the hard work you do for our kids!!

Implement a 5 min yoga or meditation every morning. Not only will it calm the kids down but it will also increase their focus and concentration in class!!

not at this time, great survey :)

No City kids. Kick them all out.

I'd like to see the recreation programs do more in terms of improving on skills learnt the year before and possibly moving up a level ie achieving something. I think you're doing a great job!

Thank you for volunteering :)

This survey was great! We hope to receive the results of the survey and have more of these types of feedback in the future.

Thanks for all of your work!

It would be great to have a start of the year family BBQ or some sort of way to welcome families and students at the start of the year.

The End!

Number of daily responses

