

St. Martha Parent Council Year End Report: 2013/2014

Executive Members

Cathie Langmead, Chair
Jaqueline Bell, Vice Chair
Tammy Wheeler, Treasurer
Joanne Adams, Secretary

St. Martha Parent Council is a group of approximately 20 committed parents who meet on the third Wednesday of every month (Sept-May).

In conjunction with becoming an APPLE school, we started off the school year by supplying home-made cookies that meet the APPLE guidelines and refreshments as a welcome to all families at “Meet The Teacher” night. We continued with a successful year, largely due to dedicated parents who headed up our sub-committees and held positions as Parent Representatives for each class from EEP through Grade 6.

This year, we had the following committee heads:

- Parent Representative Coordinator: Sara Ford
- Hot Lunch Coordinators: Nicole Slawson
- Fundraising Coordinator: Shawna Collins
- Helping Hands: Heather Evoy and Jennifer Pittman

The Hot Lunch Program, which ran on Thursdays from October to June, utilized vendors within AHS guidelines and the APPLE mandate. This is a break-even program which often provides a lunch to students of lower-income families.

Our Helping Hands coordinators were busy throughout the year. Our annual Christmas Giving Tree provided many toys and accessories to local children from the ages of 9-18 through the Santa’s Anonymous initiative. In March they organized a Teacher Appreciation dinner during Student-Led Conferences. In April they organized a brunch for the Support Staff. Both events were greatly appreciated by the staff at St. Martha.

In the past we have completed our main fundraiser of the year using Lamontagne chocolates. Within the APPLE school mandate, however, we recognized our need to align our priorities with the District. Our fundraising coordinator, Shawna Collins, came up with an amazing idea and pulled off an incredible fundraiser! Working with Pat Doleman, school administration and staff, and many parent volunteers, Shawna coordinated our first annual “Earning for Learning Walk/Run FUNdraiser”. The students raised over \$23,000 by garnering pledges to do the walk/run. These funds will be used to purchase iPads and supplies for EEP, Kindergarten and Division I.

We raised about \$2,300 at our Bringing Spring Family Dance in April.

Throughout the year, we supported the school financially for the following:

- * Mr. Simmons' St. Martha Madness event
- * Sports Day
- * Renaissance Learning program through the Library
- * supplementing the cost of Christmas concert tickets for families
- * a STOP sign with reflective lighting for the crosswalk guards.

We continue to use Kanga Pouches as an environmentally friendly alternative to large plastic baggies. This program runs in Division One with a break-even mandate and has continued to be very successful.

As chair of COSC, and St. Martha Parent Council, I attended the Alberta School Council Association Conference in April. I went to a variety of workshops, and received a lot of information to bring back to COSC members and St. Martha Parent Council, including: information on Alberta Education's curriculum initiatives; tips to engage parent volunteers; tips to conduct better meetings; and how to write grants and find grant initiatives.

Our parent council attended all Council of School Council (COSC) meetings this year.

Cathie Langmead
Chair, St. Martha Parent Council