

Featherston Drive School Council annual report on the 2020-21 school year activities

As the Featherston Drive School Council submits an annual report to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and our community, we would like to use this opportunity to thank our parents, family members, staff and community members for selflessly sharing their energy and time to benefit our students even during this past unprecedented school year 2020-21 . Especially in difficult times, like the current pandemic presents, we depend on your support and knowing that we can work together and help each other. You all are what makes this school the amazing place that it is.

The 2020-21 was a school year like no other, however, in true Featherston Flames fashion, everyone rose to the challenge. We thrived in person, we thrived when we switched to virtual. We remained connected to every family, we welcomed those in Ottawa Virtual Campus whenever we could. The success was in large part thanks to our “award winning” vice-principal, Maha Albari, whose support for our families remained unwavering. It is with mixed feeling we wished her well in her retirement at the end of this school year. We will miss seeing her and learning from her every day, but we know she will enjoy some well-deserved rest, relaxation and special moments with her family. We send her all our best wishes in this new chapter in her life and hope that she will come back to the school often, even if just to wave hello.

We can all agree that 2020-21 was a strange school year for entire community and the Board. The activities of the School Council were adjusted to virtual from the beginning of the year. While we were not able to hold our traditional community, fund-raising, and family events, we were able to support the teachers and the school community in many ways. Furthermore, we were able to finish the year ready to support students and staff in 2021-22 to ensure, despite the challenges of an ongoing global pandemic, our students can continue to learn in person as well as virtually and always have a positive school experience.

2020-21 School Council Members

Chair Maja Strika

Treasurer John Holgate

Secretary: Lisa Bishop-Spencer

Member at Large: Marlisa Tiedemann

Member at Large: Simona Wagner

Member at Large: Faten Fawaz

2020-21 Meeting dates

The School Council met 9 times during the 2020-21 school year. The elections were held during the first meeting. Meetings were held virtually on the following dates:

- October 13, 2020
- November 12, 2020
- December 10, 2020
- January 12, 2020
- February 11, 2020
- March 11, 2020
- April 8, 2020
- May 13, 2020
- June 10, 2020

While the meetings were held on line, the School Council remained in contact as necessary, making decision efficiently and supporting students and staff in all environments

What did Council do last year?

School Council at Featherston organizes school community-building and fundraising events, to provide financial support and deliver numerous programs for students each year. The Council also provides supports communication between parents and school staff and addresses important issues in our school community. As expected, during the 2020-21 year, we were not allowed to host in person events, but we have enables a few on line fundraising activities for the future. We did not raise any funds this year and did not spend any fnds from the School Council account. We finished the year with a closing balance of \$16,276.52

Some of the ways the Council enabled online fundraising includes:

Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) Public service employees can donate to the school through the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) website by directing their United Way donations to the school. The instructions are on the [School Council section of the school website](#).



Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign 2020

Campaign Leaders Info Session

Your GCWCC donations are invested directly into the school and are used to enrich the programming and fund special educational events for the students. Donating online is easy and allows for Payroll deductions, monthly Credit Card donations and one-time PayPal donations



To direct the donations to the school, it is necessary to select “Manually Add a Registered Charity”. Under the Name, please specify Ottawa Carleton District School Board as the charity name and 119249233RR0003 as Registration Number. Board main office address should be entered as below ((Greenbank Rd, 133 Greenbank Rd, Nepean, ON K2H 6L3). School Name specified in the Other Information field as in the screen shot below. Please note that any workplace charitable donations are voluntary. The online tools just provide you a way to direct your donations to the school should you want to do so. If you do work for the Government of Canada and would like to make donations through the GCWCC but require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Maja Strika at the number below.

Fundscrip Gift Card Program: In 2020-21 the School Council has enabled Canada’s largest gift card purchasing program. The program allows for easy purchasing of gift cards on line with a percent of purchase value going to the school. You are able to purchase gift card, pays for them using on-line banking, like they would pay any other bill and have the cards shipped directly to your house. For example, if you purchase an Indigo Gift Card for \$25 for the upcoming holiday season, 5%, or \$1.25, would be donated to the school, while you will still receive full \$25 value. (It is important to note NOT to pay with a credit card as the school would lose a percentage of a donation.)



This is an easy to run program which has a potential to benefit the school with no cost to the parents or any other community supporter. Gift Cards are a great options for many, especially as many stores offer e-card option that can be emailed to a recipients as a PDF attachment. We hope to be able to keep this activity going into the future.

If you would like to find out more or become a supporter through the Fundscrip program:

1. Visit <https://www.fundscrip.com/>
2. Click on Support a Group and
3. Enter Featherson code **KFPNCJ**.

If you have any questions on this program, please do not hesitate to contact Maja Strika at maja.strika@gmail.com or 613-606-8754.

How did we spend the money raised?

Every year council distributes funds to the school for various activities and supplies. These expenditures are voted on by active council members and are re-visited and re-considered each fall or as they come up. Among other things, this year we are happy we were able to:

- Purchase **10 Chromebook computers** as requested by the teachers, especially in support of in person learning during the times when the children cannot work in groups on a single device.
- Support for the **School Leaving/ Graduation Ceremony** for the Grade 8s was virtual this year. However, Council did support the purchase of Tshirts for each deserving graduate as a memento of their time at Featherston.
- Support for the **Forest of Reading program** with the purchase of recommended French and English non-fiction books by Canadian authors. This program continues to be run by our dedicated librarian and inspires kids to make reading a life-long rewarding habit.



Plans for the current school year

Featherston School Council always strives to improve and grow year over year. Unfortunately, school year 2020-21 promises to be another unusual year. While we cannot welcome any volunteers and parents to the school and cannot host any of our usual events, we are determined to make the best of it.

Our main focus for the current school year will be to maintain and improve our finances to ensure a solid footing to be able to enrich the kids' school experience in the future years. We want to make sure we have sufficient technology in the classroom and we can organize as many learning and cultural virtual events as possible, including Scientists in the School, Museum of Nature, Ingenium, MASC and others.

To make these and many more events happen and to ensure the school has technology required by many new ways of teaching the pandemic has introduced, the Council will focus 2021-22 on finding community and national grants from various foundations. We will turn to Best Buy and Canada Post Community Foundations, Canadian Tire Jump Start Foundation, Indigo's Love of Reading Fund and search out many others to explore the possibilities for Featherston students.

Especially this year, we welcome new School Council members and our families' suggestions for what you need and would like to see the School Council support. Please consider getting involved in with the Council, and join us at one of our virtual meetings this year. Details will be available from any of the Council members, the principal or vice-principal. The experience will go a long way in supporting your child's school and will give you a whole new view into their learning and friendships. Please feel free to contact Maja

Strika, 2021-22 Council Co-Chair, at maja.strika@gmail.com or (613)606-8754 with any comments or questions about the Council.

Statement of Operations and Financial Position of the Featherston Drive School Council as submitted to the OCDSB in September, 2021

School Name Featherston Drive Public School, School Council Chair Maja Strika

Opening balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand separate from the school on August 1, 2019	\$16,276.52
The amount collected in school council accounts separate from the school during the year August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020	\$0
The amount spent in school council accounts separate from the school during the year August 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020	\$0
Closing balance of all reconciled bank accounts, investments and cash on hand separate from the school on July 31, 2020	\$16,276.52

Annual Report Submitted by Maja Strika, 2020-21 Chair of the Featherston School Council

maja.strika@gmail.com, (613) 606-8754