

## ***Collingwood Collegiate Institute School Council***

### **Annual Report 2015-16 School Year**

Dear Parents and School Community:

Welcome to another great year at Collingwood Collegiate! The CCI School Council had a successful year in 2015-16 supporting the activities of our great school. The School Council held eight meetings; covering most months. Council decided not to hold a December meeting and to regroup in the New Year but the January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

All meetings are open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. The Principal, Charlene Scime attended all meetings but one, and in her absence the VP, Mark Ruzylo attended. Teacher Representation was shared by Kim Carey and Tracy Checkley. Sarah Cunningham and Graham Anderson were Student Representatives and provided information about student activities with enthusiasm. When they were unable to attend, they relayed news through the Teacher Representative or Principal. There was an average of 8 parents who attended regularly.

The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council of the actions taken in response to the recommendations.

#### **Activities of the school council this year included:**

1. Review and approval of the school fund-raising plan brought forward by the Principal in September. School Council passed a motion approving the use of HST rebate and interest from school generated funds to cover the cost of the remainder of the bill for the projector and screen installation in the old gym.
2. School Council members reviewed and updated the wellness support contact list; this information was included on the school's website-wellness tab.
3. The School Council planned and hosted a "PRO" speaker event on November 19, 2015. Dr. Mark Quigg and Youth Mental Health Counsellor Gwen Jamieson of Georgian Bay Family Health gave an informative presentation on Recognizing and Understanding Youth Mental Health Issues with a key focus on Anxiety. CCI Art Students created posters and a flyer which were distributed all over the community. The event was very well attended. Slides from the presentation, as well as important "where to go for local help" resource numbers, were uploaded onto the School Website (Wellness Tab).
4. The \$500 Parent Engagement Fund was used to create a parent resource wallet card for new parents coming to the school with school information, emergency and mental health resource numbers.
5. In February the School Council Parent Representatives attended the Gr. 8 Parents & Student Information night. Parent Handbooks and Fridge Magnets with CCI contact information were handed out. New Parent email addresses were collected so school information could be shared.

6. In February School Council invited and met with School Trustee Annie Chandler to better understand her role.
7. A PRO Grant application was submitted to host a parent workshop (Nov. 8, 2016) "On Managing Stress and Building Resiliency in Our Youth". Suzanne Witt-Foley's presentation will give parents the opportunity to explore and experience a variety of strategies that can promote positive development, help reduce teen stress and anxiety and enhance wellbeing.
8. School Council provided feedback to Principal regarding Gr. 9 Orientation (2015) from a parent's perspective.
9. School Council supported the Tech. Design Teacher, Mr. Pierce to communicate his initiative of providing two free 3D workshop nights for parents and their teen resulting in a well-attended event.
10. School Council helped provide volunteers for various events, and assisted the Commencement Committee with the venue preparation and execution.
11. School Council Parent Representatives attended the Grade 9 Orientation Day on August 31st. Over 100 Parent Resource Wallet Cards and Invitations to the Resiliency Speaker Event were handed out to Parents of new GR. 9 Students.

We would like to thank all of the members of School Council (Parents, Staff, Students, & Principal) who attended the meetings, provided information, support and direction, your effort has made our School even better!

Sincerely,

  
Tori Arrigo and May Yam  
CCI School Council Co-Chair's

**2015-16 CCI School Council Members:**

Principal: Charlene Scime    Designate: VP Mark Ruzyllo

Staff: Kim Carey and Tracy Checkley

Students: Sarah Cunningham and Graham Anderson

School Council Co-Chairs: Tori Arrigo and May Yam

Secretaries: Pegi O'Halloran, Kim Bryan, and Alicia Marshall

CEO of Refreshments: Laura Schywiola

Parent Representatives:

Debbie Bullock, Sarah Dennis, Judy Kaufman, Sue Muxlow-Carrite, and Cynthia Strandholt