

2024-2025 High Park School Council Review

The school year commenced with the “Welcome Evening” hosted by school staff. During this event, School Council members actively engaged with parents, sharing information about the roles and responsibilities of School Council and the Parents League Association (PAL). Informational flyers were distributed to help parents understand how they could get involved.

Our first meeting of the year took place in September and served as an opportunity to review the roles of the executive team and to outline our meeting format. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed in October. While the Chair and Vice Chair returned for another term, we welcomed a new Secretary. These new additions, along with increased parental involvement, contributed to a dynamic and well-represented School Council this year. Meetings were held in person at the school on Tuesday evenings, with an online option available to accommodate more members. Attendance fluctuated throughout the year, averaging eight members per meeting.

A major focus this year was strengthening our school community through support of school administration and key events. School Council assisted the PAL with volunteer recruitment, hot lunch days, pancake breakfasts, bake sales, and the school’s first-ever Read-a-thon.

Another key priority was to better inform the broader parent community about the distinct roles of School Council and the PAL. Although these groups are independent, many volunteers participate in both, leading to questions around structure and purpose. Additionally, the school faced two unexpected but significant repair expenses this year. Requests for funding led to meaningful discussions on fundraising goals and the role of School Council /PAL in allocating funds. These conversations, while occasionally challenging, ultimately brought clarity and alignment among members.

Looking ahead, School Council members are enthusiastic about continuing our efforts next year. We remain committed to fostering a strong and collaborative relationship between High Park School and its families.

Catrin Thomson

High Park School Council Chair