



Merivale High School  
School Council

## Annual Report 2016 - 2017

Merivale School Council is comprised of a multitude of parents (80+ on group email), teacher co-representatives (2), student council co-presidents (2), Vice Principals (2) and Principal (1). At all meetings, approximately one-quarter of parents attend as well as at least one student rep., our teacher rep. and one or more of our Vice Principals and/or Principal attended every meeting.

We are very fortunate to have such committed interest from parents, students and staff!

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Council Chair:   | Lorrie Vidalin                    |
| Council Vice-Chair:                                    | Marie McFaul-van den Berg         |
| Secretary:   | Mimi Kho                          |
| Western Area Review Advisory Committee Representative: | Isabel Ruddick                    |
| Principal:   | Barb Gage                         |
| Vice Principals:                                       | Shannon Adams & Jonathan Cappello |
| Teacher Representative:                                | Ann Stockford                     |
| Student Council Co-Presidents:                         | Claire Sethuram & Eric Zhu        |
| School Trustee   | Donna Blackburn                   |

Merivale High School (MHS) School Council hosted a total of 9 meeting throughout the school year as follows:

|                    |                  |               |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| September 13, 2016 | February 7, 2017 | June 13, 2017 |
| October 4, 2016    | March 7, 2017    |               |
| November 1, 2016   | April 4, 2017    |               |
| December 13, 2016  | May 2, 2017      |               |

### Meetings

At the last school council meeting of the 2015-16 school year, June 7, 2016, Lorrie Vidalin was re-elected as council chair and Marie McFaul was re-elected as vice-chair for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. The impetus for early elections was a proactive approach to the OCDSB decision regarding the SSR review. The school council, school staff, students and families were very pleased with the board's decision to begin the process for a second International Baccalaureate program within the OCDSB at Merivale HS.

School Council Chair, Lorrie Vidalin, attended three other school's school council meetings in 2016-17; Carleton Heights, Sir Winston Churchill & Meadowlands all of whom have students that will be attending MHS in September at the grades 7 &/or 8 level. Representation was to allow parents to meet with MHS chair and relay concerns, questions, etc back to MHS principal, Ms Gage for her follow-up. This connection was appreciated and well attended and was the initial bridge to open the lines of communications with incoming families.

The chair also attended 4 OCASC-SSC meetings and the discussion items were reported back to MHS school council.

## **School Council Involvement**

School council executives worked throughout the spring & summer 2016 on a Ministry of Education PRO grant application titled "Discover Merivale". We were pleased to have been awarded \$1,000 which was divided amongst three presentations: Mathematics & Numeracy (November), Special High Skills Majors-Communication & Design/Automotive Small Engines (February) and a mental health component; Coping Skills for Parents and Guardians of High School Students (June). The events were open to the public and promoted throughout the school, our feeder school contacts via email and the entire board via Michele Giroux and the school council newsletter. We had favourable turn-out for all three presentations. Thanks to Marie & Isabel for all the planning, organizing and promoting and to all the staff that attended/assisted with these evenings.

Council members attended Western Area Review meetings (October & January), numerous COW board meetings throughout the year and Advisory Committee meetings (November & December).

Toy Mountain - On December 21st council members gladly transported the "mountain" of gifts collected by students to Carlingwood Mall.

MHS Open House and Information evening - January 12, 2017 council was represented and met with many new families.

Our annual, school council run Staff Appreciation event (aka Valentine's Tea) was held in April. We dubbed it Chocolate-Fest as we were unable to hold the event in February. Thanks to former Merivale student, Laura Teutsch for providing music during the "tea".

Assorted council members were also active with Jazz Buffet (March), Multicultural Show (May), Relay for Life (May)

Our school council members were active with assisting the MHS musical, Catch Me if You Can in April. Each of the 3 performances were supported by council with a bake sale canteen. Baked goods, set-up and sales were provided by many parents throughout the week. Total sales were just shy of \$1,000 and in support our Arts programs. Huge thanks and appreciation to Julie Dunnigan, parent, school council member, and party planner extraordinaire who again maximized the musical's theme and ran a top-notch bake sale and Cappies Critic night.

PRO Grant application - MHS school council member, Isabel Ruddick and Deb Ford worked together to submit a PRO grant application to the Ministry of Education (June, 2017). As of reporting date, a further \$1,000 was awarded for 'High School & Beyond' and 'Resources for Health and Addiction' presentations.

## **Thank you**

Council would like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank an amazing group of professionals. From the administration and administrative support team, who support not only their students but school council as well with their commitment and encouragement, to our supportive guidance councilors and dedicated teachers and of course, our incredibly friendly and accommodating custodial staff! We are well aware of the positive impact you impart on your students/our children each and every day and the resulting benefits this has on their ongoing educational growth and character development.

*Lorrie Vidalin & Marie McFaul*  
MHS Chair & Vice-Chair, 2016-17