

ADAM BECK SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

adambeckcouncil.ca

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Welcome back Adam Beck families. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, September 20 @ 6:30 pm in the gym. Everyone is welcome. Babysitting will be provided in the library, as it is for every council meeting.

The Adam Beck School Council is committed to helping make our school a better place of learning for our students. We are already busy planning exciting and enriching activities for our students this year. For details about what council does, elections, by-laws and committees, see the "About School Council" section at the end of this newsletter.

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Updates

School gardens

Thanks to our School Garden Committee, the Adam Beck school gardens continued to thrive over the summer months despite the extreme heat. Thank you to the dedicated committee for watering and weeding in weekly rotations over the course of the summer: Claire Boxall, Mel Chryssafis, Jennifer Hall, Connie Harding, Jeny Nussey, Janet O'Reilly, Lisa Telio, Cristina Toporas, and Amanda Wood.

The committee is looking forward to continuing to provide planting opportunities for students in the fall and spring, and to helping maintain and expand the school's outdoor learning areas throughout the year. Thanks to the committee for for all you do to keep our school looking so beautiful!!

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Volunteering

There are so many ways that parents can get involved in the activities at the school. Volunteers are critical to every single event that council runs at Adam Beck, and we are grateful to all parents who are able to give time to support our events.

Volunteers are needed all school council events, including the holiday party, Night on the Beach, Mayfair, pizza lunches, movie night and more. At all of these events there are tasks that accommodate all interests. Even as little as one hour of help makes a difference.

If you are interested in adding your name to the list of available volunteers or learning more about how you can help, please attend the September council meeting or contact chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca. Council will also have a table at the upcoming curriculum night where you can add your name to our list.

Police checks

All volunteers must have the appropriate police checks completed prior to volunteering. Forms are available in the office and we will also have them available at the Sept. 20 meeting. **Our first council initiative is pizza lunch on September 26 and volunteers are needed for this event, so please submit police check forms as soon as possible.**

For those who have completed these checks in the past, all you need to do is pop into the office and complete a quick online update on your one-year anniversary.

Upcoming Events

First council meeting of the year

At this meeting we introduce council, the various council committees and fundraisers, and recruit parent volunteers. But don't worry, if you want to volunteer but can't make the meeting, email chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca and we'll connect you with the volunteer opportunity that fits your availability and interests.

First pizza lunch of the year

For those of you who already need a break from packing lunches – don't fear! Our first pizza lunch will take place on September 26. Stay tuned for details on how to order and volunteer.

Rendez-vous Café

Rendez-vous Café is a great way to mingle with parents and support local parents and businesses in the community. Our first Rendez-vous Café is scheduled for September 29th at 8:45am. Please come join us for coffee, muffins and great conversation.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please reach out to chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca and we will put you in touch with the right people.

Handy Resources

TDSB online parent resources

Here you'll find the school year calendar, homework tips, resources related to health and well-being, ways to get involved and more: www.tdsb.on.ca/needtoknow. You can also visit the new standing [parent website](#) developed in collaboration with the [Parent Involvement Advisory Council](#).

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TVO learning resources

TVO online offers resources that you and your child can use at home: <https://tvo.org/education>. The games and programs you'll find there are based on the Ontario curriculum and include mPower, which has fun games that use math skills taught to kids from kindergarten to grade 6.

About School Council¹

What is school council?

What is the purpose of school council and what do we do?

The Purpose of School Council is to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

At Adam Beck we accomplish this by creating partnerships between parents, teachers, principals, students and members of the community. This includes:

- Advising the Principal on issues that are important to the parents and students through committees or School Council meetings
- Volunteering in areas that improve and enhance the school environment
- Communicating with our parents, administration and the Board
- Educating our parents via discussions and workshops
- Fundraising and using the funds to support our initiatives and enhance the classroom or educational experience at Adam Beck.

Meetings

School Council plans to meet 7 times this year. The meetings will be held on September 20, October 18, November 22, January 24, February 21, April 25 and June 13.

The school council is a key platform for you, as a parent, to share your ideas and concerns. After our first council meeting, the contact details of the executive will be shared with the community as a whole. Please reach out and let us help in any way we can.

All parents or guardians of a child enrolled at Adam Beck Junior PS are members of the parent school council and are welcome and encouraged to participate in school council meetings and to bring up issues for consideration and discussion.

We will provide the community with more information about School Council and our key initiatives at our upcoming meeting on September 20 in the gym.

This year, council would like to leverage our meetings to bring in speakers on topics that are of importance to parents. Thanks to the hard work of Victoria Kay and the grant committee, we are again fortunate this year to have funds from the Parents Reaching Out Grant to support this initiative. If there are topics or speakers that you think would be interesting please send a note to Jeny and Karen at chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca.

Helping out

Becoming an active member of the council is a great way to meet other parents and school staff and to have a positive impact on your child's public school experience.

¹ This information is also available on the Adam Beck school council website, adambeckcouncil.ca.

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Don't worry if you can't attend council meetings; we will still keep you in the loop on what is discussed and decided with newsletters. In addition, minutes of all council meetings will be posted on our website, adambeckcouncil.ca.

School council by-laws and election procedures

By-laws

Last year we started using a formal set of by-laws to govern key operating decisions made by the council. The by-laws ensure our council operates within the framework set out by the TDSB and ensure consistency between schools. A copy of these by-laws is posted on the school council website at adambeckcouncil.ca under the School Council tab.

Election procedures

Here is a summary of what you need to know about election processes for executive members and officer positions.

Executive

- This year we will hold a general election for individuals who are interested in acting as an executive member. Under our by-laws, we currently have spots for a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 20 executive members. Executives are those parents who are willing to attend and participate in more than 70% of the meetings of the school council (5 out of 7 meetings), participate in committees established by the school council, participate in and facilitate any events that the school council holds during the school year and solicit views of other parents and members of the community to share with the school council.
- Other members of the executive include the principal, a teacher representative, one non-teaching representative of the school and one community representative elected by the council.
- Executive members will also be entitled to participate and vote on the budget we set each year.

If you are interested in being an executive member of the parent council, please let us know at chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca no later than **Friday, September 14**. If we have more than 20 parents who are interested in acting as executive members we will communicate with the community on next steps in advance of our council meeting on September 20.

Officers

In addition to the executive members, we also have elected officers. The positions are Chair/co-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The roles and responsibilities of these positions are as follows:

- **Chair/Co-chairs** act as liaison between the principal, staff, and the school council. They are responsible for oversight of all council committees and initiatives and provide feedback and support to committee chairs. The co-chairs set the agenda for each meeting and provide support to members who wish to present new ideas and initiatives or who have concerns they wish to present at council. The co-chairs also represent the parent community at school and ward functions and meetings. If the chair cannot be present at a meeting any of the officers can chair the council meeting. Board employees are not eligible to be a chair or co-chair of any council in that board.

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- **Treasurer** is responsible for acting as custodian of the funds of the council; handling receipt and disbursement of council monies; keeping proper records of all financial transactions; arranging for verification of the council's financial records in June of each year; acting as a joint signing officer, preparing annual report. The treasurer shall chair the Budget Committee, review and approve committee-related expense claims, sign cheques related to council initiatives, track budget to actual expenditures for council initiatives, and periodically report to council.
- **Secretary** is responsible for taking minutes of all meetings, making notes of all planned actions and commitments and then distributing the minutes for review and approval, first to the chair, co-chairs and principal and then to the members who attended the meeting.

To be considered for one of these officer roles, you must commit to being a member of the executive team and to take on the role for a minimum of two years. There is a huge learning curve and we have found in the past that parents are much more successful in the roles when they do it for a few years. These officer roles will be elected by the executive. This year we will be holding elections for the secretary position. If you are interested in being considered for an officer position, please complete the attached nomination form and return it to us at chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca by Wednesday, September 19. Once we have finalized the executive members, we will hold the elections for the officer positions.

If you have any questions about the process for electing executive members and officers, please reach out to us.

Council committees

Council has many committees that parents can volunteer their time for. Some run fundraisers, while others provide support for the many activities that are kids enjoy throughout the year. Each committee is described below. We'll share more details and names of committee leads at the September council meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about any committee, please reach out to chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca. We will be asking parents to volunteer for a committee at our first council meeting so please be sure to come out and sign up!

The committees, their goals from last year and expected volunteer needs are outlined below.

1. **Monsterbash** (Saturday, October 27, 2018): Monsterbash is Adam Beck's first big fundraiser of the year and it a spooktacular Halloween party for kids from JK to grade six! This year's Monsterbash will go from 4-7 pm in the gym and throughout the school, and promises to be filled with spooky fun, games, treats, and activities for kids of all ages. Come in costume! Wristbands and tickets will be available through Munchalunch in early October.

Volunteer needs: We'll need volunteers for set up on Friday, October 26 for an hour or two that evening, followed by set up on Saturday, October 27 during the day, and for various games and activities (including our famous Haunted House) during the event. Shifts can be as short as an hour here and there, or for the entire event (if you dare!). Kids in grade five and six are welcome too - we need lots of student volunteers to run the games on the second floor, and to assist at various tables throughout the event.

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Monsterbash is a long-standing tradition at Adam Beck, but it cannot continue without new volunteers joining the team. See what it's all about, and see how you can contribute!

2. **Night on the Beach** (April 2019): Night on the Beach is an annual school fundraiser for parents, teachers and other school supporters. It is a fun night out (grown-ups only!) with lots of exciting auction items, dancing, and socializing. Our goals are to raise funds to support school activities, provide parents and the school community with a fun evening out, and get to know each other.

Volunteer needs: Volunteers are needed to help with the solicitation of local/Toronto businesses for auction items/sponsorships and event assistance.

3. **Mayfair** (May 26, 2019): Mayfair is a fantastic outdoor fair and fundraiser featuring educational and entertaining activities, including various games, creative and ecological crafts, interesting demonstrations and community vendors, bouncy castles, the popular “dream basket” draw, and more.

Volunteer needs: Volunteers are needed for planning and also for the day of for activities such as set up, working at each of the multiple venues (games, ticket sales, food), and of course, clean up.

4. **Holiday Party** (November 24, 2018): This committee plans and organizes an event in December that brings the community together to kick off the holiday season and our school’s adopt a family program.

Volunteer needs: Volunteers are needed to help plan the event, set up, and working at the stations including arts and crafts, breakfast tables and various sports activities during the event.

5. **Pizza Lunch** (monthly): Pizza Lunch is a fun day for the children to spend a lunch time in their classroom and a day when parents don’t have to pack a lunch!! This year we will again be holding 10 lunches. Ordering will once again be done online using Munchalunch – <http://munchalunch.com/schools/adambeck/>

Volunteer needs: Pizza Lunch is held in the classrooms and at least two parent volunteers are needed to distribute pizza and supervise the students in each room. **Parents with younger children are welcome to bring them along.** There is a volunteer page in the online ordering system where you can checkmark which dates you are available. You do not have to commit all at once. You can go back into your account anytime throughout the year and add or remove dates. Volunteers will be contacted with more information on the weekend before each lunch.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Committee at abpizzalunch@gmail.com.

6. **Movie Night (6 times per year):** The purpose of movie night is to provide a fun night out for students while raising money for school council initiatives by selling pizza, drinks and treats. We will hold 6 movie nights over the course of the school year (October 12, November 9, January 25, February 22, April 26 and May 31) and students will have the opportunity to vote on which movie they would like to see.

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Volunteer Needs: Setting up the gym before the movie night, getting food organized, helping out the night of the event, clean up. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

7. **Rendez-vous Café:** A free morning coffee/tea and treats event held each month after drop-off (September 28, October 26, November 23, December 14, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 21). Located in the meeting room between the two new north side kindergarten rooms between 8:45 and 9:30am. Come and chat with our Principal and Vice Principal (when their schedules allow them to join us), fellow parents and caregivers, and the event sponsor.

8. **Spirit Committee:** The spirit committee's goal is to foster a sense of community and build an inclusive value system among Adam Beck families by promoting activities that bring together parents, teachers and kids, as individuals and as a group. We define inclusion for Adam Beck as a sense of belonging, where you feeling respected and valued for who you are as well as feeling a level of supportive energy and commitment from others in the community. Some of the ways the spirit committee has does this in the past include:

- Hold spirit/theme days
- Build unity by encouraging use of school colours and clothes by holding spirit wear event
- Anti-bullying spirit wear/buddy benches
- Promote sports event fundraiser (Marlies Game)
- Incorporate a free event to build community spirit i.e., skating night
- Work towards better communication as a community
- Take part in and support end of year BBQ/play day

9. **Staff Appreciation Committee:** The staff appreciation committee helps to foster goodwill between staff members and the Adam Beck parent community. Two staff appreciation events are held each year. In December the committee provides holiday baking and at the end of the year a potluck style meal is provided for staff as thanks for their hard work.

Volunteer needs: In addition to food donations, volunteers are needed to set up before and clean up after each event.

10. **Garden Committee:** This committee is responsible for the organization and maintenance of the Adam Beck School Gardens. The Committee helps implement projects throughout the year that develop the garden as an effective teaching tool as well as a diverse natural environment for our teachers and students to enjoy.

Some of the committee activities in prior years included:

- Providing opportunities for seasonal planting in the fall and spring
- Exploring opportunities to expand and enhance the garden environment
- Encouraging best practices and sustainability
- Inspiring environmental stewards

Volunteer needs: The volunteer opportunities are primarily during school hours but we'd also appreciate some help in the evenings and weekends with watering and weeding.

11. **Visiting Artists:** Various artistic experiences are planned by this committee. Committee members work with staff to choose performers to bring into the school to provide an arts experiences for all students, from JK to grade 6.

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12. **Read-A-Thon:** There is a door hanger Design Contest in January and then a Read-a-Thon in February (each student keeping track of minutes read in the classroom and at home).

Volunteer needs: Administrative work for the Design Contest = distribution of entries, judging, ordering door hangers; Administrative work for Read-a-Thon = distribution of entries and door hangers, tally of entries at the end of Feb, ordering awards (books, medals, trophies), distribution of awards.

13. **Head Lice Committee:** Done during school hours, volunteers team up with our Public Health Nurse to check for lice on scheduled days or “outbreaks”. Please visit our website to access information on the Head Lice Fact Sheet.

14. **Fundscrip:** At various times during the year, orders are taken for gift cards for various businesses (i.e., Loblaws, Indigo, Starbucks, The Keg, Winners, Walmart). You get the gift card shortly thereafter and a percentage of what you paid goes directly to Adam Beck, at no extra cost to you or Adam Beck!

Volunteer needs: Volunteers are needed to implement this program a few times a year.

15. **Budget Committee:** This committee takes all the submitted budget request proposals and meets to determine where to allocate the fundraising dollars for the upcoming year. All members of the School Council Executive are part of this this committee which meets two to three times during the month of May. Any parents who are not on the Executive Committee but attend more than 70% of the school council executive meetings can put their names forward to join this committee and provide input into the budget for next year.

16. **Communications Committee:** This committee, in coordination with the Co-Chairs, keeps the Adam Beck School Council website up-to-date and helps coordinate various modes of communication for School Council events and information.

Volunteer needs: If you have communications expertise that you would like to share, whether you can write web copy, design posters, or strategize, we need you!

17. **Mabels Labels:** Mabel’s Labels are customized name labels that adhere (and stay!) on just about everything. By ordering through the Adam Beck School Council fundraising site, 20% of your order comes back to School Council to be spent on initiatives that directly impact our kids. The fundraising site may be found by searching “Adam Beck School Council” at campaigns.mabelslabels.com or by clicking on the link in the Mabel’s Labels section of the Adam Beck School Council website.

18. **Grant Application Committee:** There are many grants that we could apply for to implement programs at our school.

Volunteers needed: It would be ideal if a few parents could meet a few times a year and search for grant opportunities on behalf of all areas of the school and assist in filling out the applications.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT NOMINATION FORM
ADAM BECK SCHOOL 2018**

I wish to declare **my candidacy** for an elected & vacant position as a parent/guardian representative on the “ADAM BECK School Council”. I understand that the vacancy I am nominating myself for is:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Business Phone:** _____

Email: _____

I am the parent/guardian of: _____
who is currently registered at Adam Beck School.

I am an employee at Adam Beck School ____yes ____no

TDSB employees are eligible to run for council positions if they are parents/guardians of a student(s) enrolled in the school but they may not hold the positions of Chair or Co-Chair

I am an employee of the Toronto District School Board ____yes ____no

The position I would like to run for is: _____

Candidate's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please include a brief biography of yourself below and why you are interested in the role:

Please return to the main office or fax a copy to (416) 393-1963 or email to kent.yee@tdsb.on.ca