



Equinox School Council  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2020-2021

# NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

When they look back, I don't know what our children will remember of this year. Masks, probably. A lot of Zoom. But my hope is that they also remember that it was the year they went outside. That they each had their own tree stump to sit on. That they learned about native plants and then got to watch a garden of penstemon and ninebark and butterfly weed grow in their schoolyard. Some will remember the day they planted them.

They may remember learning about native bees in a virtual talk, or learning to grow their own food, or learning why pronouns are important.

And they may, when they are older, look back and consider ... there must have been so many adults who made those things happen for us, and I hope they feel loved.

Thank you to my council and to our school staff and to all of you for being our children's community of adults. We did our best, everyone. And a lot of it was beautiful. Probably more than we think.

*Carrie*

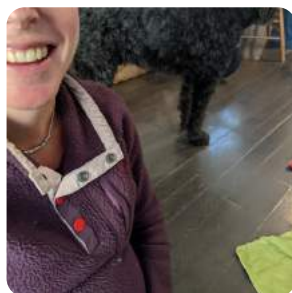
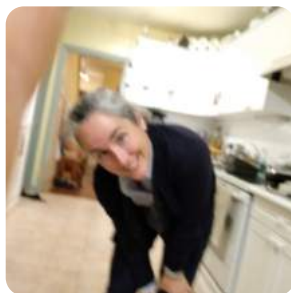
**CARRIE KLASSEN**

Equinox School Council Chair 2020-2021



# EQUINOX SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS 2020-2021

Thank you (in random order) to Robyn, Genevieve, Sonia, Michelle, Janna, Heather, Ben, Sarah, Vanessa, Courtney, and Carrie.



[Link to Equinox School Council Budget Sheet](#) as of October 12, 2021



# SELECT PROJECTS

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- collaborated with Roden School Council to source tree stump seating for every student at both schools
- made whiteboards for outdoor classrooms
- created two nature playscapes with large "loose parts" for creative and heavy play
- revitalized and expanded the Native Ecology Learning Garden, planting with grade 3/4 class
- restocked garden equipment
- engaged 30 garden stewards to care for the learning gardens (THANK YOU!)
- added outdoor education titles to classroom libraries
- planted a new food justice learning garden of fruit trees cared for by kindies (leaving the property in fall 2021)

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- introduced Terracycle PPE recycling program to school
- sponsored virtual talk about native bees by a conservation biology scientist and professor, and a series of talks around Indigenous Plant Knowledge and stewardship by a garden educator
- supported Tree Festival (thanks, Sarah & Heather!)
- added a bin of reusable water bottles for students who forget theirs so we could avoid/limit disposable cup use

## ANTI-OPPRESSION

- developed a food justice learning series for homes and classrooms with food justice activist and farmer Cheyenne Sundance - shared with school councils across GTA
- purchased online library of diverse cultural dance lessons taught by professional dancers
- voted to redistribute 20% of all school council-driven fundraising to TFSS
- co-created a map of walking tours from our school to visit sites of Black significance
- school council invited staff and parents/guardians to participate in Rania El Mugammar's Liberation Library anti-oppression book club (which is ongoing!)
- to give students more exposure to more ways that excellence can look, all sponsored talks were by BI&POC and/or LGBTQ2S+ women who were paid for their labour
- sponsored FoodShare food justice workshop
- sponsored Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia workshop
- added trans pride and Progress Pride flags and Every Child Matters posters to school common area
- supported a community art project for Roden and Equinox students in honour of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

# SELECT PROJECTS *CONTINUED*

## CARE BEYOND OUR COMMUNITY

- donated to Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit's school library
- coordinated a weekly canned goods drive for December and donated 4 trunkfuls of food
- donated to The Neighbourhood Organization to support newcomer Afghan families in resettling
- donated to KBF Canada's India Relief Fund during COVID-19 crisis
- supported other schools in setting up outdoor classrooms
- collected and shared outdoor clothing with schools new to outdoor learning

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- collaborated with staff and students in an air quality research based on CO2 readings and shared best practices with schools across GTA

## COMMUNICATIONS

- sent surveys to families, staff, and students to collect input and establish council priorities
- created and managed a new Instagram account for the school
- published approximately 500 Facebook posts
- with Jodi's help, sent 14 school council emails to families
- contributed to 10 school newsletters
- wrote welcome letter to incoming kindie families

## MUTUAL AID

- virtual skate share
- collected rain and winter gear and clothes for the Equinox & Roden sharing bins
- through private donation, provided fruit boxes to families during school closure
- supported Roden tech drive to get devices to families

## ADVOCACY

- advocated to provincial government for outdoor education support for all Ontario schools
- advocated for TDSB flags to fly at half mast for the found children
- opposed hybrid learning in TDSB
- petitioned provincial government to add school and daycare staff to vaccine priority

# THE SCHOOL COUNCIL YEAR IN IMAGES

