

Volunteer Opportunities

One of the roles the PAC can play is helping parents get involved in the school. Volunteering will help you feel more connected with what is happening in your child's life, introduce you to other parents, help you get to know the school and staff better, and more. It does not have to take up a lot of time. Some of the opportunities this year may include the following - let us know you are interested:

- **Class Reps** - we need a volunteer from every division to represent your class at our monthly PAC meetings and communicate key issues back to your class, ensure everyone in the class who wants to be is on a class contact list so families can get in touch with one another, help recruit helpers from your class to distribute food to your students on lunch days and for other special events, help support artists when we bring them into your classroom in the Spring, find out how best to support and communicate with your teacher, and coordinate optional teacher gifts/cards from the class in December and June.
- **Visual Arts Committee** - this crew coordinates Artists in Residence to come into each classroom and give students an opportunity to meet real artists from the community and work on an art project that they would not otherwise get to do. In the past this has included ceramics, puppetry, murals, felting, and more, and often the work has resulted in permanent art installations around the school. This committee also spearheaded and coordinates the popular annual Make Sale, a unique craft fair in December where not only are handmade items made by the school community sold, but also where kids can have opportunities to actually make something creative from wood, fabric, paper, glue guns, cookie icing, and more. Proceeds from the Make Sale have supported the Artists in Residence program as well as the purchase of professional art supplies for the school for teachers to use in the classroom.
- **Lunch Team** - this crew coordinates special hot lunches throughout the year which in the past have included pizza, sushi, hot dogs, chicken strips, pasta, fruits/veggies, cookies, milk and more, in order to give parents a break from having to pack a lunch every day, as well as fundraise for the core programs that the EMJS PAC has traditionally funded to augment the learning happening in the classroom year after year, including chess lessons, dance or yoga, the above-mentioned Artists in Residence program, Science Venture, cycling lessons through iRide, and so much more, as well as supply teachers with additional funding for every student to put towards field trips, guest speakers and special classroom projects of their

choice. Contact us to join the coordinating committee or volunteer on lunch days to help distribute food to students in their classrooms.

- **Fall Dance** - for years we have put on a community-building costumed event around Halloween. What shape this takes this year is up to the organizing committee. Will there be a haunted house? Dance? Pizza? Carnival games? Get involved and help make this fun tradition continue.
- **Spring Fair** - We have wrapped up each year with a fun family picnic and fair in the beginning of June, with bouncy castles and food and face painting and carnival games and crafts.
- **Staff Appreciation Luncheon** - around Valentine's Day we like to put on a special feast for our teachers and staff to show them our appreciation for all they do for our school. Depending on how much funding we have available, we have often been able to have this mostly catered, with families contributing salads, desserts and side dishes as well as many exciting door prizes for staff.
- **Grade 5 committee** - when your child is in their last year at EMJS they may look forward to wearing a special grad hoodie with signatures of their classmates on the back, and then at the very end of the year they will be recognized for completing elementary school in a special ceremony. Join the crew of grade 5 parent volunteers who want to coordinate the hoodies and do some extra fundraising (in the form of a book sale or some other event) in order to host a reception following the ceremony and a party down at the beach later that evening.

- **Discontinued:** In case you were wondering about a few other opportunities that we have had in the past, the following parent committees have had to be discontinued until further notice: callback (parents volunteering to help hand out late slips and phone families of students who do not show up at school), emergency supplies (the school has said they will take over all emergency preparedness), bike club (the school no longer accommodates an after-school bike club on school property), yearbooks (the school will not allow these due to privacy concerns), lice checks (the school no longer supports dry head checks in the school and asks parents to conduct their own checks at home), raffle baskets (we have had raffle basket fundraisers in the past at the Fall Dance and Spring Fair but have discontinued them due to concerns that they are not effective fundraisers because the community ends up spending a lot more to fill the baskets than we make as profit, and may promote gambling behaviours).