



VPS School Annual Report 2014-2015

Isn't it amazing how quickly another school year flies by? As we look back on this year at Victory Public School, there are so many moments of which to be proud. We'd like to take this opportunity to review some of the highlights of our year together, as well as provide insight into plans for 2015-16.

Victory Public School Council Aim: *Our aim is to make the learning environment the best it can be at Victory School by providing advice and support to enhance the communication between school, home and the community, and to encourage parental involvement.*

To achieve this Aim, we have welcomed parent feedback and worked in tandem with Mrs. Young to align parent-funded endeavors and equipment with Victory's School Improvement Plan, which guides curriculum and

How we communicated:

Communication is a key focus of School Council to ensure that all parents are kept informed and provided a means by which they can share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. We will continue to tweak our communication systems and use multiple methods to ensure that all voices are heard. This year, we communicated via:

- a September, 2014 blue-sky brainstorming **Vision Meeting** that was well-attended and directly resulted in projects organized by our Idea Bucket Committee (e.g. Sketchy Kids, Mini-makers, finger knitting)
- a new **website** (www.vpsfamily.ca), **email address** (info@vpsfamily.ca), and **Twitter account** (@VPSFamily)
- School Council **newsletters**
- the Board's new **email and phone call systems**
- **flyers** in backpacks
- monthly **meetings** (all meeting agendas/minutes/monthly reports are on our website)
- **surveys** with both students and families

How we worked and played together:

School Council coordinated social events, such as a Family Festive Night, a Valentine's Dance, the Enrichment Clusters Celebration Evening, the Marion Small math presentation, and the Dessert Party. We also contributed to the Junior Kindergarten 2016 welcome packages. We ran a spirit wear sale, a volunteer reading program, and the milk program. The Greening Project was officially completed in September, 2014, though we continue to fund playground upkeep, and a school garden was planted. School Council supported some brilliant teacher-led events, such as the Carnival in February and the Enrichment Clusters in March. We appreciate the many clubs, teams, assemblies, and music evenings that were run by teachers this year!

How we supported opportunities for all students:

We have an Equity Fund in place within our school. With this money, School Council covered expenses for all bussing to class field trips, sports activities, River Run productions, etc. We provided apples every two weeks and snacks for any student who just needed a little extra something to get them to their next meal (they're all growing so fast!) . We subsidized pizza/subs and milk for families who needed a hand with this. Suggestions are welcome as to how we can ensure that those who need support, receive support.

How we raised money: *(A full financial report will be available in August 2015.)*

Our school community has been very generous in supporting our programs through our fundraising efforts this year with the Terry Fox Run (for cancer research), pizza/sub days, magazine sales, Mabel's Labels, Holiday Craft Sale, and the Dessert Party. Once again, the Dessert Party was a huge success with wonderful community support.



What we funded:

As a result of the tremendous support from our community, School Council was able to fund: apple and snack program, home reading books, library books, author and artist visits, Scientists in the Schools, VPS equity fund, playground upkeep, resources to classrooms (\$15 per student), school materials, agendas (partial funding), sports equipment, school garden, graduation, patrols, and many other items.

Special funding focus 2014-15: Music Program

A focus of this year's budget was to develop the Music program by buying instruments (ukuleles, rhythm sets, boom whackers, etc.) and teaching resources (English and French). We funded a guest ukulele instructor to teach Gr 4/5/6 students, and purchased red Victory T-shirts for the Choir (which will be used again at future events). We were successful applicants for a music grant, which will fund additional instrument and resources. Many thanks to Joanna Lewis for guiding the development of this program and celebrating with three Music Evenings.

Looking ahead to next year:

Looking ahead to next year, we are excited about what is to come!

- School Council will host another blue-sky brainstorming Vision Meeting, (Thursday, Sept 17, Location TBA) to which all are invited and are encouraged to share ideas.
- We also invite you to become part of the School Council Team for 2015-2016. We have some fresh faces on board and we look forward to renewed energy in September. A new Treasurer and a new Secretary are in place, with the Co-Chair positions still open to fill.
- Everyone is welcome to attend the School Council meetings, which will begin after the Vision Meeting on Sept. 17th (see dates on p. 4).

What you've said you would like:

Thank you to the families and students who completed the March 2015 surveys. Your responses were used to drive 2015-16 budget decisions. Specifically, you said that you would like:

- equal support for literacy, math/science, sports, arts, equity
- pizza but there was a divided response for subs (Given the higher cost of subs and much lower revenue, we have decided to offer pizza only next year, every two weeks.)
- a combination of fundraisers and donation campaigns, with a maximum of three fundraisers

How the 2015-16 budget was determined:

Decisions were based on:

- results from family and student surveys (for example, next year has a more even distribution of funding)
- discussions throughout the year at School Council monthly meetings
- proposals from teachers and parents willing to take ownership over specific projects
- which areas have recently received support, and which areas are due for attention

Three Fundraisers

- Pizza (no subs)
- Christmas Craft Sale
- Dessert Party (no raffle at DP)

Two Donation Campaigns:

- Fall 2015
- Winter 2016 - or a Raffle?

Fundraisers and Donation Campaigns will be connected with specific Expenses/Programs

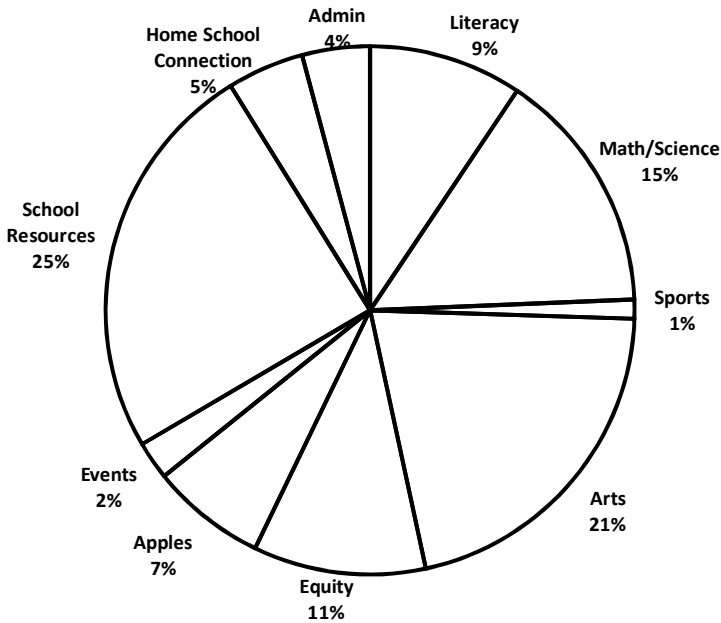
Special funding focus 2014-15: Sports Program

Music was a budget focus for 2014-2015, and we are pleased to announce that we will continue supporting a guest ukulele instructor during 2015-2016. The new focus for 2015-2016 will be the Sports Program and Resources, to which \$3000 has been allocated. We will seek input on how these funds might be utilized. Let us know your ideas!

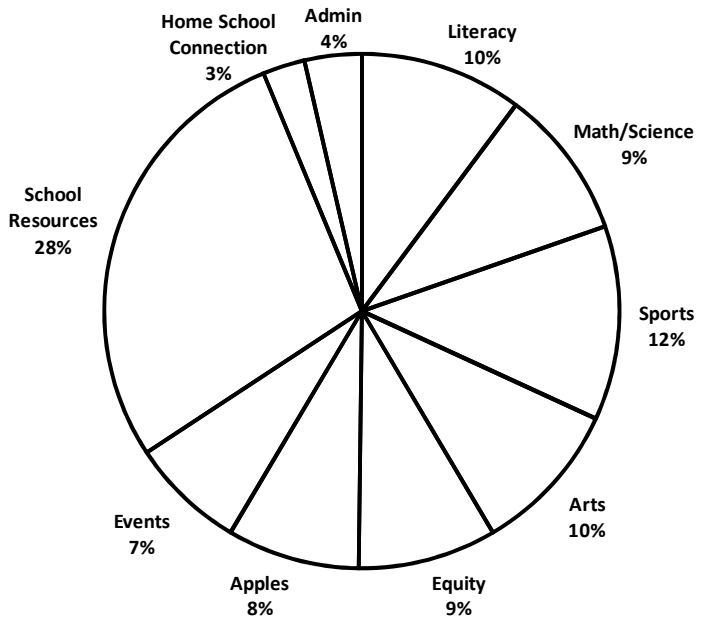


Summary of Expenses:

2014-2015



Projected for 201-2016



Categories	Looking Back at 2014-2015		Looking Ahead to 2015-2016	
	%	Specific Expenses	%	Specific Expenses
Admin	4	Insurance, Photocopying, Thank you/ Retirement Gifts	4	Insurance, Photocopying, Thank you/ Retirement Gifts
Home School Connection	5	Communications (website, email, newsletters), JK Orientation Package	3	Communications (website, email, newsletters), JK Orientation Package,
Literacy	9	Home reading, Library Forest of Reading, Author Visits	10	Home reading, Library Forest of Reading, Author Visits, Reading Kits for Volunteer Reading Program
Math/ Science	15	Scientists in Schools, Math Calendars, Marian Small presentation	9	Scientists in Schools, Kids Make Guelph
Sports	1	Sport Equipment/ Resources	12	Sport Equipment/ Resources (special focus for spending this year)
Arts	21	Music Program resources/instruments and Ukulele instructor (special focus for spending this year), Choir (partial support), Enrichment Clusters, Art Experience (Rene Meshake)	10	Ukulele Instructor (continuation from last year), Choir (partial support), Enrichment Clusters, Art Experience
Equity	11	Bussing to events, VPS Equity Fund	9	Bussing to events, VPS Equity Fund
Apples	7		8	
Events	2	Garden, Idea Bucket (Kids Make Guelph), Carnaval ,Play Day treat	7	Garden, Idea Bucket, Carnaval, Winter Soiree, Play Day treat
School Resources	25	Agenda, Classroom Resources (\$15/ student), Playground Upkeep, Gr 6 Graduation, Patrols	28	Agenda, Classroom Resources (\$15/ student), Playground Upkeep, Gr 6 Graduation and Gr 4 Picnic, Patrols, Technology in Classrooms (3 Projectors)

Budget numbers for 2015-16:

- **Expected Expenses: \$21,700**
- **Expected Income** via Three Fundraisers: **\$14,500**
- **Remainder: \$7,200 (~\$24/student)** This will be the amount needed to be raised via a Donation Campaign (and/or raffle?) to support all of the Expected Expenses.

A conversation for September 2015:

An interesting conversation has begun regarding the milk program, with questions around School Council's role in offering chocolate milk every day, or any milk at all. While you may be very happy with the current milk program, there are a number of people who would like to share an alternate perspective, with questions about the daily amount of litter created, the amount of sugar in chocolate milk, challenges with the Board's new online system (more limited choice and equity concerns), and whether this program should be managed by School Council or by interested parents. Others see the milk program as an important source of protein, vitamin D, and calcium. This warrants a proper conversation with those who order milk and those who coordinate the milk program. Our plan is to gather and share input from families during September (via survey), put milk on the agenda for the October 1st School Council Meeting, and then have a vote at the November 5th meeting. In the meantime, milk will be offered by paper order forms for Term 1, as usual. Terms 2 and 3 will depend upon the Nov. 5th vote by School Council Members. We encourage parents to take part in the Sept survey and join the discussion on Oct. 1st.

2014-15 School Council:

Chair: Wendy Bauman **Secretary:** Julie Porter, Derick Lord
Parent Members: Jeanna Rex, Mary Calarco, Sarah Bolton-Blair,
 Kate Webster, Ellyn Lulis, Simone Jean, Claire Coulter, Justine Dainard
Treasurer: Wendy Bauman
Principal: Julie Young
Staff Reps: Rotating position

Meeting Dates 2014-15 (6:30-8pm):

Sept. 11, 2014 Vision Mtg	December 4, 2014	March 5, 2015	June 4, 2015
October 2, 2014	January 8, 2015	April 2, 2015	June 11, 2015
November 6, 2014	February 5, 2015	May 7, 2015	(Budget Mtg)

Meeting Dates 2015-16 (6:30-8pm):

September 17, 2015 (Vision Meeting 6:30 to 7:30pm and then School Council Meeting 7:45 to 8:30pm)	January 7, 2016	April 7, 2016	June 16, 2016
October 1, 2015	February 4, 2016	May 5, 2016	(Budget Mtg)
November 5, 2015	March 3, 2016	June 2, 2016	

And finally, THANK YOU!!

A special and heartfelt thank you to all of the families and volunteers at Victory School who helped to organize events, attended field trips, helped in the classrooms and the library, volunteered when called, shared skills and passion through enrichment programs and visits, provided financial support, and put in the hours and effort where they could to ensure that the learning environment at Victory is the best it can be. Every job, no matter how small, is important to the success of our students. Big thanks also to Mrs. Hambly and Mrs. Young for all of their help and support!

Have a fabulous summer, everyone!
 Sincerely, Wendy Bauman, Chair 2014-2015