

St. Matthew Catholic School Advisory Council Annual Report for the 2018/2019 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community:

The St. Matthew Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) had a very rewarding 2018/2019 year. The school council held seven meetings during the school year. These meetings were open to the public to encourage input from members of the school community, to inform council's discussions of the various issues considered. The purpose of the school council is to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents, through the active participation of parents. The school council acts in an advisory capacity, making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible to consider recommendations made by council and advise the council of the actions taken in response to the recommendations. With the support of Mrs. Johnstone and the school community, achievements of the school council in 2017/20 included:

- Free community-building events for the students and families of St. Matthew including family movie night, Summit Climbing family night, Shrove Tuesday pancakes, family Zumba night, staff appreciation breakfast, family HoopOut night, support of Mission Day activities, and a school community BBQ.
- Implementation of the 2018 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant project, bringing *The Umbrella Project* founder Dr. Jen Forrestal to St. Matthew School for a Parent Engagement Night.
- Providing input to school administration and pursuing grant funding for the play structure replacement, which we are pleased to report will be installed in Fall 2019.
- Ongoing liaison with community members regarding traffic and parking concerns in the vicinity of the school.

In addition, fund-raising activities were conducted and the proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. Our annual dance-a-thon fundraiser on October 31, 2018 was highly successful, generating over \$19,500 in funds for use within the school. Using these funds, CSAC recommended funding for the following items:

- Allocation of \$10,000 toward the replacement of the play structure, to be installed Fall 2019.
- Reimbursement of up to \$100 per teacher for classroom supplies.
- Free community-building events throughout the year for students and their families, as listed above.

- additional funds allocated toward replacement of the gymnasium speaker system, which was installed November 2018.

Minutes of school council meetings were made available following each meeting via the school Newswire. Minutes of meetings, as well as financial records, are also available for public inspection by contacting the school office.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the CSAC this past year. St. Matthew School is blessed to have dedicated volunteers within our community. Special thanks are due to the members of the 2018/2019 CSAC for their commitment to our council's mandate.

The first Council meeting of the 2019/2020 school year will take place on **Wednesday September 11th at 6:30pm** in the Learning Commons wherein elections will be held for vacant council positions, including those of Co-Chairs. We welcome any interested members of our community to participate in the school council, through nomination to an elected position, or regular attendance at council meetings as a member-at-large, or by volunteering at events held throughout the year.

We look forward to 2019/2020 being another rewarding year, including celebration of the 25th Anniversary of our school! Thank you for your continued support of St. Matthew School and the CSAC.

Sincerely,

Kim Chabot
Co-Chair

Heidi Gaiser
Co-Chair