

About The Work of School Council

Mission of Sam Livingston School Council: The mission of the school council is to promote and enhance student learning through the effective partnership of the principal, teachers, staff, parents and students. The School Council is committed to supporting opportunities for each student to maximize intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative growth in an encouraging, safe and caring environment.

School council has several roles, one of which is to inform and advise school administration. At our school, council also organizes a number of events and activities to enhance school spirit. Money raised through these activities is used to fund educational enhancements for our students, teachers and community.

Sources of Funding	
General	Parent volunteers coordinate many events (see below). Funds raised through these activities are directed towards improving the educational experience for Sam students.
Casino	About once every 18 months, parent volunteers act as staff at a casino. In return, the school received a portion of the casino proceeds. The amount is usually substantial. Government guidelines stipulate that funds must be used toward certain goals, such as technology.
GIC	Council has a small amount invested in a GIC.
School Council Fundraising Activities	
<i>Fundraising activities serve the dual purpose of raising school spirit while raising funds for school enrichments (see School Council Supports section below).</i>	
Class Photo	This year, copies of the Grade 4 class photo will be sold as a fundraiser.
Community Events	Events such as the Halloween Dance and Winter Craft Night serve the dual purpose of bringing the community together and raising money for school activities.
Entertainment Books	Every fall, Sam students can choose to take part in selling Entertainment Books, which contain discount coupons from local businesses. Half of the proceeds return to Sam to be used as council funds.
Fun Lunch	This activity usually takes place once a month during the school year. For a small fee (\$5/child), students receive a ready-made lunch and enjoy it in the classroom under the supervision of a parent volunteer.

Movie Night	Movie nights are held several times a year. Families can gather in the school gym to enjoy a recent release for a minimal price. In 2012, each grade level hosted a movie night and in return used the proceeds for an activity of choice.
Popcorn Days	Like Fun Lunch, this fundraiser is held once a month. Parents can choose to buy a snack of popcorn for their children. Proceeds are used to fund school activities.
School Calendars	Illustrated with artwork by Sam students, the school calendars provide a schedule of important events for the year to come, while raising a small amount to support council activities.
School Council Supports	
<i>We are fortunate to be able to fund many educational supports for Sam students. For instance, research shows that that music education pays off in academic achievement. The activities below support curricular requirements, educational enhancements and the well-being of our children.</i>	
Dare to Care	In the past, parent council has hosted programs such as Dare to Care, which addresses bullying challenges within the school environment.
EnviroLab and garden boxes	Sam's EnviroLab allows children to explore curriculum concepts about nature and the environment in a real-world setting. A garden box project has recently been added to the outdoor learning environment. EnviroLab was funded and built by council, and is now maintained by parent volunteers.
Graduation	Council funds materials for the kindergarten and Grade 4 graduation celebrations at the end of June. Parents often play a significant role in organizing these events.
Legacy Projects	Council has supported various legacy projects through the years, including the mosaic art piece and kites in the library, the painted fish on the school fence, and the tiled Alberta map in the hallway.
Music	Council recently invested in new instruments for the program, including xylophones, recorders, and rhythm instruments.
Rainbarrels	Rainbarrel fundraisers and raffles have proved a successful way to raise funds while helping the environment.
Semaine de la francophonie	Every March, the school celebrates French culture. Council has supplied enrichments for this event, including croissants and 'La Tire'

	(candied maple syrup).
Special Events	Council volunteers also organize events and activities to support our school in various ways. During the 2012-13 school year, one such activity included a 40 th anniversary celebration.
Sports Day Snacks	Sports Day is traditionally held on the last day of school. As part of the celebration and farewell, council funds snacks and supports.
Teacher Recognition	Every school year, council organizes and funds two main events to thank teachers. Specialty coffee is made available for teachers during one interview session, and a staff appreciation lunch is held at the end of the year.
Technology	Council helps fund and maintain educational supports including the SmartBoards in each classroom, laptop computers, the SchoolConnects communication system and an updated audio system for the school.
Traffic Safety	Traffic continues to be a danger for Sam students, especially during school 'rush hour.' This school council committee is actively involved in educating students, parents and families about ways to stay safe in traffic, while working with stakeholders to address broader issues. In April 2013, the school hosted a key stakeholder meeting which brought provincial, municipal, police and school board representatives together in a conversation about how to improve school traffic safety.
Trickster	Trickster Theatre group works with students develop short theatre pieces based around curriculum. At the end of the week, the pieces are professionally staged for a parent audience.
Welcome Coffee	During kindergarten orientation, parent council speaks with new parents about ways they can participate in the school community. Council also funds the coffee and donuts that are made available during these meetings.
Young Writers Conference	Senior students at Sam are supported in attending the Young Writers Conference held each spring in Calgary.
Memberships	
Calgary Association of Parent and School Councils	CAPSC meets once a month during the school year, supporting parents in school councils across Calgary. Recent CAPSC activities include hosting forums for school trustee candidates and organizing Calgary's first School Traffic Safety Week. CAPSC has a seat at the

(CAPSC)	Calgary Board of Education (CBE) board meetings.
Canadian Parents for French (Calgary Chapter)	Canadian Parents for French is a volunteer organization that supports children in French and French immersion programs. They provide information about additional educational resources, including summer camps, and advocate for French immersion programs.