



Meet your SAC:

DEBORAH WALSH



Get to know SAC volunteer *Deborah Walsh*, who helps lead our Greening/Eco team. If you don't know Deborah by name, you've likely seen her watering and weeding our school's fab new planters and gardens!

What's your connection to Dovercourt?

I started volunteering at Dovercourt when my first grandchild started kindergarten there. I started a Garden Club, along with Ms. Ling and the principal. Our first garden meeting we had over 35 children come out! I now have two grandsons at the school—one in Grade 5 and one in JK.

When did you get involved with SAC, and why did you join?

I got involved with SAC a few years ago when they needed help with Spring Fling. I had so much fun being part of this group that I started to come to the meetings out of curiosity. The Eco/Garden role came open, and I jumped in!

What do you enjoy about volunteering with SAC?

I feel part of the school community being on SAC. The group is heavily invested in making a difference while supporting the school.

Why should others get involved with SAC?

Come to a meeting and see what we are about! No commitment. Grandparents, parents, and caretakers are always welcome. It's great, as you can decide how involved you want to be. Our Spring into Summer event (June 16th) is a fun way to start. It would be wonderful to see more grandparents like me get involved!

Fun fact about me:

Before I retired, I worked for a Swedish company, and that career gave me an opportunity to see more than 12 countries and 50 cities. Also, I am not a professional gardener! I'm a horticulture hobbyist who just enjoys being outside. If you'd like to reach out, you can email me at dovercourtgardenclub@gmail.com.



Spring into Summer: Join us! Join us!

As June 16th gets closer, our Spring into Summer committee is hard at work planning and organizing a fabulous event to celebrate our school. This event cannot happen without the help of committed volunteers! We need you:

- **Help:** We're seeking volunteers to help set up, operate events, hand out food and clean up. Can you pitch in?
- **Donations:** We need individual and/or business donations of items and/or services (e.g. gift certificates) for our silent auction. Can you donate?
- **Yard games:** We're looking for kid-friendly large outdoor games (e.g. corn hole, giant Jenga) to set up in the west yard during the event. Can you lend us yours?

Email us at dovercourtcouncil@gmail.com to get involved!

Heads up: Grade 8 graduation

As our Grade 8s prepare to move on to secondary school, we want to send them off in style! SAC is coordinating volunteers for two special days for our graduating students:

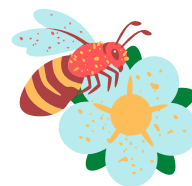
- **Fun day (date TBD, week of June 19th):** We'll need volunteers to set up, serve snacks, barbecue, and clean up as our Grade 8s enjoy a day of fun, food and friends.
- **Graduation (evening of June 20th):** We will need volunteers to set up, work, and organize this formal ceremony. We'd especially like parents and guardians of Grade 7 students to get involved.

Watch for sign-up details in next month's newsletter!

NUMBER OF THE MONTH: 362

That's how many Dovercourt teachers, caretakers, neighbours, parents, SAC members, and community members participated in the Dovercourt Public School Pollinator Garden Project last year.

With support of a TD Friends of the Environment grant, we planted hundreds of bulbs, shrubs, and native plants (many of which are now in glorious bloom!) and created signs to educate our students and community about our ecosystems. Thanks to this hard work, Dovercourt is much more beautiful, nature-friendly, and buzzy place!



Pizza lunches: Yes, we still need volunteers!

By popular demand, pizza lunches are back at Dovercourt this spring. The funds raised by these lunches support school enrichment activities that benefit all our students, such as Scientist in the School.

SAC needs volunteers to distribute pizza to students on the following dates:

- Friday, May 5
- Friday, May 19
- Friday, June 9
- Friday, June 23

To sign up for a one-hour slot, please visit our volunteer form at the QR code above.



Shoe swap: Keep your kicks!

Remember a few months back when we shared that SAC is organizing a Shoe Swap this spring? It's happening! We plan to host the Swap during the Spring Concert, which will be happening later this spring—details to come. In the meantime, if your children have outgrown their shoes and/or boots, but they're still in good condition, please put them aside for others in our school community.

And if you need a gently-used pair of kicks, why not check out the swap before buying new? Watch for details on the donation process, and the date of the swap, in the weeks to come.



Staff appreciation lunch: May 19th



**POTLUCK
SIGN-UP**

Dovercourt SAC is organizing a potluck lunch on Friday, May 19th to show our amazing teachers and staff how much we appreciate them. If you'd like to contribute, please sign up for a dessert, appetizer, or main using our sign-up form, available at this QR code.

Next SAC meeting: May 17th

The next Dovercourt SAC meeting is Wednesday, May 17th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, in the Dovercourt PS staff room. Free childcare is available. Please join us!



How we're fighting back

As you likely know, Dovercourt Public School is facing serious cuts, with essential teaching and support positions at risk at a critical time for our students.

Dovercourt SAC is fighting these cuts.

We have drafted a letter expressing our opposition, which we will be submitting to federal, provincial and municipal politicians, as well as several TDSB authorities.

We hosted a virtual Town Hall on April 12th to discuss these cuts and to organize our response to them. In the Town Hall, we shared background about the proposed cuts, and strategies for talking with family, friends and neighbours to help us organize against them. We also heard from Ms. Ling, a longtime teacher at Dovercourt, about the negative effects these cuts will have at our school.

Whether or not you were able to join the meeting, there are several things you can do now to voice your opposition to these dangerous cuts.

Visit our website, dovercourtsac.com, to find resources and links to (including a template for an email you can send to your elected officials).

If you haven't yet, please sign our petition opposing the cuts.

We need as many voices as possible to be as loud as possible! With your help, we'll send a powerful message: Our kids deserve better, and these cuts cannot stand.



SAC AT WORK: DUFFLEBAG THEATRE

At the end of March, DuffleBag Theatre came to Dovercourt, treating Kindergarten, Primary and Junior students to a fun and interactive theatrical experience. This special performance was funded by SAC—just one of the enrichment activities our fundraising efforts support. "It was so well received by all of the students and staff!" reports Ms. La Marca. "Thank you to SAC for providing this event for the students!"

