



DOVERCOURT SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

# SAC NEWS

www.dovercourtsac.com

JUNE  
2024

## 2023/2024: WHAT A YEAR!

The 2023/2024 school year was a standout one for Dovercourt SAC. We launched exciting new projects and events, and scaled up Spring Fling. (We missed you, bouncy castles!) We advocated against education cuts and launched a new Dovercourt Pride subcommittee.

We also focused our fundraising efforts and, as a result, enter the 2024/2025 school year with a balance of **more than \$23,000**—in line with pre-COVID norms. This will help us support more initiatives that benefit our students. Hooray!

### Fundraising highlights:

Thank you to all for your generous support!

- We raised **more than \$900** (net) from the school's Fresh from the Farm produce fundraiser in the fall;
- We launched a new online Spirit Wear shop, which has raised **nearly \$400** in rebates already;
- The school's annual school Dance-a-Thon in March raised **more than \$2,000**; and
- We raised **nearly \$10,000** (net) for the school from Spring Fling tickets and silent auction purchases.

### Investment highlights:

A sample of SAC-funded student activities:

- **Mystic Drumz** music program;
- **Roots of Empathy** in Ms. Smith's 4/5 class
- Books for the school's **Book Clubs**;
- Dovercourt's **Ukelele Club**; and
- The Grade 8 graduation **picnic lunch**.

### SAC community-building highlights:

- We hosted and funded a successful **Welcome Back Open House** during Curriculum Night in October;
- We supported the school's **Holiday Food Drive** for to benefit the Oasis Dufferin Community Centre;
- We held a fun and popular **School Movie Night** to beat the winter blahs in February; and
- We convened after-school **enrichment programs** in the winter and spring.

## AND FINALLY...

Major thanks to 2023/2024 co-chairs **Ben Peto** and **Peggy Gibbons** for leading our small-but-mighty council with such integrity and vision. And a special shout-out to departing SAC enrichment lead **Melanie Kramer**—we will all miss you!

## Mark your calendars: Next SAC meeting is September 17th

Our next SAC meeting—and the first of the 2024/2025 school year—will take place on **Tuesday, September 17th**, at 6:00pm at the school. All parents and caregivers are welcome to attend; child care will be available.

We will be holding elections for the following leadership positions, which will help steer and manage various initiatives. Here are the open roles for 2024/2025:

- **Chair (or Co-Chairs):** 1-2 positions
- **Secretary:** 1 position, 1 alternate
- **Treasurer:** 1 position, 1 alternate
- **Communications:** 1-2 positions
- **Events Team:** 2-4 positions
- **Community Outreach and Ward Rep:** 1 position
- **Community Rep:** TBD positions
- **Enrichment:** 1 position
- **Greening / Eco Team:** 1-2 positions
- **Pride Subcommittee:** 1-2 positions
- **Stop School Cuts Subcommittee:** 1-2 positions

Join us if you're curious about SAC, or if you have ideas for fundraising. And if you simply have a question about SAC, please email us at [dovercourtcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dovercourtcouncil@gmail.com)!

## SAC AT WORK: ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Did you know? This year, SAC funded a Roots of Empathy program in Ms. Smith's class. We asked Ms. Smith to share a bit about the experience. Here's her report:

*"This year, Ms. Smith's grade 4/5 class participated in the Roots of Empathy program, where a community member, 'Mama Kathryn' brought her baby, 'Baby Alex' in for regular visits over the course of the year.*

*"With the help of Roots of Empathy facilitator, Ms. Passmore, students got to **learn about empathy** through watching Baby Alex grow over the course of the year. Students also learned about how to safely care for a baby, and connected this information to their own lived experiences, and what kind of care makes them feel safe and comfortable.*

*"Students were in awe every time that the baby visited, as she was always noticeably bigger and had gained a new and impressive skill. **What a wonderful way to bond with our classmates!**"*

What a win-win! We hope to bring Roots of Empathy back to Dovercourt next year.

SEE  
BABY ALEX  
AT SCHOOL!



# Spring Fling 2024

Spring Fling 2024 was one for the history books! We ate, danced, played games, bounced, sang, made art, showed Pride, and took in a truly tremendous talent show—all while raising **nearly \$10,000** to support school enrichment activities and other initiatives. It was our biggest fundraiser, by far, since the pre-pandemic days.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- The **dozens of parents, caregivers, teachers, and staff** who set up, cleaned up, served food, cut freezies, baked cookies, sold tickets, monitored hallways, policed bouncy castles, supervised games, and made the day possible.
- The small-but-mighty **Spring Fling organizing committee**—Abigail Hernandez, Adam Boyle, Chris Antonik, Deborah Aarts, Deborah Walsh, Desiree Marshall, Elizabeth Liberty, Hilary Hall, Jordan Pettie, Kelly Weisz, Leah Gold, Lisa Clapperton, Lisa Kotsopolous, Peggy Gibbons, and Sarah Weaver—for logging countless hours since January to plan the event.
- Everyone who **bought tickets and/or bid on silent auction items**. Every ticket sale helps make Dovercourt a better place!
- The **more than 60 local businesses, people and organizations** that donated cash or silent auction items—our community stepped up!
- Our **incredible Dovercourt students** for sharing your talents, practicing patience (even in the freezie and bouncer lines), and filling the day with joyous energy.

**Sponsor showcase:** Special thanks to our sponsors, whose generous financial support of at least \$500 each helped us **bring back the bouncy castles** and make Spring Fling **fun and successful for all!**

## GALLERIA almadev

ON THE PARK

**Almadev** is a real estate development, investment and asset management company with best-in-class master-planned communities and mixed-use properties across Canada and the United States. Galleria on the Park is transforming Dupont and Dufferin into a master-planned community where residents can live, work and grow as one. Urban living will be fused with a massive park, public spaces, lifestyle experiences, exceptional retail and innovative office space.



BIGELOW CONSTRUCTION

At **Bigelow Construction** we're passionate about helping our clients grow in the homes and neighbourhoods they cherish, and in the city we all know and love. We specialize in working with the original housing stock in the Old City of Toronto and have developed proven strategies and techniques for these challenging areas and projects. With a focus on innovative site management, excellent communication, and respect for you, your home, and your neighbours. At Bigelow Construction we offer a professional construction process that delivers a high quality product.

## [APA] FURNITURE DESIGN

Marcello Apa of **APA FURNITURE** creates custom furniture from his boutique shop in Toronto, Canada. He carries on the tradition of his grandfather before him, building hand-made, one-of-a-kind designs. Marcello's focus is on building less, but building better; creating small or limited production pieces using materials scrupulously sourced, and with thoughtful attention to details. Marcello thrives on the challenge of working with new ideas, designs, and techniques. He enjoys collaborating with other like-minded furniture designers, artists, and makers, combining the skills and vision of many to bring projects to new and interesting levels.

## LiUNA! LOCAL 183

Feel the Power

The Labourers' International Union of North America ("LiUNA!") is an international union which represents more than 600,000 workers across the United States and Canada. **LiUNA Local 183** is the largest LiUNA local union. Local 183 represents more than 70,000 workers in an area stretching from Kitchener to Kingston and north through Muskoka. LiUNA Local 183 strives to be the most progressive and fastest growing union of construction workers, waste management workers, building service and maintenance, and healthcare workers in Canada.



**FERN** is a home and life transformation service run by one of our Dovercourt P.S. moms, Meg Broadbent. One of FERN's goals is to help other parents get rid of anything and everything in their homes (and lives) that isn't working for them or getting in their way. Meg works one on one with you to get rid of clutter both in your home and in your mind, so that your daily life feels easier and more functional, and your home feels like an oasis of calm.