



Meet your SAC:

MELANIE KRAMER



Get to know SAC volunteer *Melanie Kramer*, who leads enrichment activities for SAC this year, including the *Brixology* and *World of Design* after-school programs. (Look for more activities in the fall!)

What's your connection to Dovercourt?

My daughter, Loewyn, is in grade 2.

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

I joined when Loewyn started JK. I wanted to learn more about the place I was sending my daughter to each day and meet other families with kids at the school.

What do you like about volunteering with SAC?

I love working with other parents and caregivers to make our school even better. Everyone is so motivated to help give their kids a great experience at school—whether it's organizing fun activities, raising funds to support extracurriculars, or fighting school cuts. It's inspiring how hard people work.

I also really enjoy hearing the principal's report at the beginning of each meeting. Everyone is welcome, even if you're not a SAC representative, and I highly recommend coming to some meetings to learn more about what's going on in your kid's school.

Why should others get involved with SAC?

We always need more hands, whether it's volunteering to hand out pizza at lunch, running an activity at Spring into Summer, or taking a position on the council. Some of our core members are leaving after this year (we'll miss you, Elaine!) and are looking for new and diverse voices to join SAC in the fall. Share your talents by joining us!

Fun fact about me:

Most summers I collect a few monarch butterfly eggs and raise at least a few monarch caterpillars, releasing them after they turn into butterflies.



2022-2023: A SAC highlight reel

As the school year comes to a close, it's a fine time to take stock. And what a year it's been! SAC funds supported field trips, in-class art projects, and fun enrichment activities in (like Duffle Bag Theatre and Blank Canvases). Our small and mighty team of volunteers also drove a bunch of initiatives meant to make Dovercourt a better place. Here's a sample:

- **September:** We hosted our first monthly **SAC meeting** of the year, back live and in-person.
- **October:** We served a great meal and snacks at the school's **Welcome Back Open House** and organized our first-annual **Winter Gear Swap**.
- **November:** We coordinated Dovercourt's **Dance-a-Thon** fundraiser and launched our **Spirit Wear sale**.
- **December:** We helped staff and students run a **Holiday Food Drive** for Oasis Dufferin Community Centre.
- **January:** We volunteered to serve the **return of pizza lunches** and started a subcommittee to plan **Spring into Summer**, a reimagined end-of-year school festival.
- **February:** We ran our first-ever **Neighbourhood School Blood Drive** with two other local schools.
- **March:** We helped launch a **Spring Food Drive** for Oasis Dufferin and began organizing to **Stop School Cuts**.
- **April:** We brought back **after-school enrichment activities** with optional programs offered at the school by Brixology and World of Design, and our beautiful **school gardens and planter boxes** started to sprout.
- **May:** We gathered hundreds of signatures to Stop School Cuts and **presented them at the Ontario Legislature**. We also treated our terrific Dovercourt staff and teachers to a **potluck appreciation lunch**.
- **June:** When we weren't busy pulling off **Spring into Summer**, we organized a **Shoe Swap** at the Spring Arts Showcase, supported **Grade 8 graduation activities** and cheered on our co-chair, Alejandra González Jiménez, as she **protested school cuts** at TDSB headquarters.

We'll be back at it again in the fall. Please join us!

NUMBER OF THE MONTH: 50+

That's how many volunteers helped make Spring into Summer a huge success on June 16th. A massive **thank you** to all who organized, set up, served food, supervised games, counted silent auction bids, sang, danced, crafted, and cleaned up—and to the 40+ businesses, organizations and citizens who sponsored or donated to make it great.



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AND DONORS**



Summer volunteers: Help our gardens grow!

Our beautiful school gardens and planter boxes need some love over the summer months. If you're interested in helping with some gardening or watering in July and August, please reach out to dovertcourtgardencolub@gmail.com



Roots of Empathy: Do you know a “Tiny Teacher”?

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are planning to host a **Roots of Empathy** program at Dovercourt next year. Roots of Empathy is centred around the novel concept of having a baby become a “Tiny Teacher”—giving students lessons on how a baby grows, naming and talking about feelings, and thinking about the feelings of others. We are looking for a local infant and parent to come into a classroom next year. Is this you? Email dovertcourtcouncil@gmail.com to learn more about what's involved.



Open SAC positions: Come out and join us next year!

Want to get involved with SAC next year? (It's fun! You should!) We'll be filling all of the following roles for the 2023-2024 school year with returning and (we hope!) new SAC members.

- **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:** Open
- **Enrichment:** 1 position
- **Greening / Eco Team:** 1-2 positions
- **Pride subcommittee:** TBD positions
- **Stop School Cuts subcommittee:** TBD positions

Curious? Come on out to a SAC meeting in September!

Next SAC meeting: Early fall 2023

That's a wrap! All SAC meetings are done for 2022-2023. Please watch for news of the first meeting of 2023-2024 in early September. Have a great summer!



Speaking for students at TDSB headquarters

Throughout the spring, SAC has been fighting serious cuts to not only our school, but others across Toronto. SAC plans to continue this work in the fall.

Our SAC co-chair, Alejandra González Jiménez, spoke at a press conference at TDSB headquarters on June 20th, talking about the effects of budget cuts on students across the board and urging the board to address the underfunding.

Alejandra was not speaking as co-chair of Dovercourt SAC—rather, she spoke on behalf of a coalition of parents of several schools in the TDSB—but we want to amplify her words.

Here are two excerpts from her speech:

“Education cuts disproportionately affect, and further marginalize, low-income and racialized children and youth. To reverse these shocking conditions, TDSB schools need more funding, not less. We need more caring adults to make schools a safe place for all our children to thrive and succeed.

“We will win a well-funded, quality, public education system when parents, guardians, students, and trustees, as well as teachers' and education workers' unions come together to fight against education cuts! Our children deserve so much more than what the TDSB budget is allocating to them.”

SEE ALEJANDRA'S
SPEECH ON YOUTUBE
(@ 12-MIN MARK)



SAC AT WORK: CONGRATS GRADE 8 GRADS!

Dovercourt SAC was proud to support two activities to send off our graduating Grade 8 students earlier this month: On June 19th, we sponsored a burger lunch and treats for the graduates' Fun Day of movies and activities, and on June 20th, we served pizza and treats to students and their families during the formal graduation ceremony. To all our graduating Dragons: We're so proud of you. Best of luck in high school!

