# DOVERCOURT SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

MAY 2023

www.dovercourtsac.com

SAC NEWS

## Meet your SAC:

#### VIVIAN FLEET AND NUNO SILVA

Get to know SAC volunteers **Vivian Fleet** (who co-leads our Greening/Eco Team) and **Nuno Silva** (who serves as SAC Secretary)!

What's your connection to Dovercourt? We have one son (Nico) in SK at Dovercourt and another (Hugo) starting JK in the fall.

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

We got involved in September of 2021 when Nico started kindergarten, mostly to get to know the lay of the land since we were brand new to the school.

# What do you enjoy about volunteering with SAC?

Vivian: I enjoy playing a part in adding to my kid's school experience. Nico often asks for us to volunteer at school events (e.g. school trips, classroom activities) so SAC is a great way to get even more involved. Plus, I want to set an example for my kids in being active in the community.

Nuno: Volunteering helps me understand how the school and broader system runs, and makes me appreciate the incredible work that the SAC volunteers are doing.

#### Why should others get involved with SAC?

Getting updates in person from our principal during SAC meetings is magic. It helps us get a pulse on the school and the community and helps us be better parents to our kids. Any parent can come and listen in—we think any parent would take away a lot from it.

#### Fun facts about us

Nuno: Vivian once gifted me a book called

Knitting With Balls and I've liked knitting ever since. Vivian: I love gardening and my favourite plant to grow and harvest is garlic!



# Spring into Summer: What to expect

Mark your calendars for June 16th! Our Spring into Summer event is shaping up to be a spectacular celebration of our Dovercourt community. Here's a taste of what we're planning (subject to change):



- **3:30pm:** Event begins! Our ticket sale booth, popcorn stand, bake sale, and silent auction will open. Free games, face-painting, and arts and crafts will start in the yard.
- 3:45pm: Flash Mob dance begins in west yard. We are creating our own "Ray of Light" with a massive group dance. Local choreographer Monica Dottor has filmed a tutorial, available <u>via YouTube</u> and this QR code. Study up and join in!



- 4:00pm: Dance workshops begin on the north yard stage.
- 4:30pm: Dinner begins. Pizza, samosas, and beef patties, and others will be available for purchase, via tickets.
- 5:15pm: Family jam session begins on main stage. (All musicians, young and old, are welcome!)
- 6:00pm: Talent show begins.
- 7:00pm: Silent auction bidding closes.
- 8:00pm(-ish): Event closes.

### Spring into Summer: What to bring

- Cash or debit card. We are selling tickets for food. We will accept cash (small bills and change appreciated) and will have debit readers handy. Plus, you'll want to bid on our silent auction, featuring (among other things) outdoor planters custom painted by each Dovercourt class!
- Reusable water bottle. Gotta stay hydrated!
- A willingness to get silly and have fun!

### Spring into Summer: How to help

Want to get involved? Here are two ways!

• Volunteer sign-up: We need at least 50 volunteers to help set up, run events, serve food, and clean up. Can you spare an hour to help? Sign up for a shift here!





 Bake Sale sign-up: Our fundraising bake sale needs baked goods! Can you make some muffins, concoct some cookies, or buy some brownies? <u>Please sign up to bake!</u>

# NUMBER OF THE MONTH: 15

That's how many parents, caregivers and volunteers prepared food for our Staff Appreciation Lunch on May 19th. Our teachers and staff enjoyed a well-deserved feast. Thanks to all who pitched in!

### Grade 8 Graduation: Help send off our grads!

We want to send off our Grade 8 students in style! Can you volunteer to help serve food at the Grade 8 Fun

Day (midday on June 19th), or at the Grade 8 Graduation (evening of Tuesday, June 20th)? Note: We're hoping to start a tradition of Grade 7 parents/guardians leading this effort. Please sign up for a shift using <u>our sign-up form</u>.



### Shoe Swap: June 8th

The Dovercourt Arts Showcase is taking place on June 8th, and we're organizing a shoe swap the same night. Here's how to get your kicks—literally.



- Give a pair: Is your entryway full of gently used shoes, boots or sandals that your kiddos have outgrown? Drop them in the box in front of the school office before June 8th to share them with another Dovercourter!
- Take a pair: Have your kids' feet grown? Need a new pair or two, come by our table at the Spring Concert on June 8th to see what's on offer.

# Roots of Empathy: Tiny Teachers

We are planning to host a <u>Roots of Empathy</u> 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 neighbourhood infant and parent to come into a classroom next year. Is this you? Please email us at <u>dovercourtcouncil@gmail.com</u> to learn more.

# Next SAC meeting: June 14

The next Dovercourt SAC meeting is Wednesday, June 14th, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, in the Dovercourt PS staff room. Free childcare is available. Please join us!



#### Update: How we're fighting cuts

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.

You may have seen us gathering signatures at the school entrances in the past weeks. On Wednesday, May 31st, a delegation of Dovercourt representatives (parents, guardians, and students) joined those from several other schools to present a petition in the Ontario Legislature, with hundreds of signatures protesting these cuts. Dovercourt SAC Enrichment Lead Melanie Kramer and Co-Chair Alejandra Gonzalez Jimenez were part of the delegation, and report:

"It was a great day! Davenport MPP Marit Stiles presented the petition to the Legislature, with over 1,000 hard-copy signatures from parents, guardians, and caregivers from Dovercourt, Rawlinson Community School, Jean Lumb, Pauline, Regal Road, and Clinton schools. An incredible **366** of those signatures were from our Dovercourt community."

We will continue to work with other schools to gain critical mass in our fight against these damaging cuts.

In the meantime: Tell us your story. We're gathering testimonials about how

school cuts affect your family, so we can send a powerful message to our elected officials. <u>Share your story here.</u>





# SAC AT WORK: BLANK CANVASES

Thanks to SAC funding, art educators <u>Blank Canvases</u> led sessions for several Dovercourt classes in May. According to Mr. Deotto, it was a great success: "Our students had a great time using mixed media to create anthropomorphic portraits from materials found in magazines and their own imagination! The instructors were wonderful and gave the students a structure to let their creativity run wild. In another workshop, students made print blocks of their own designs that they can use to produce future works of art."

