Thursday, November 12, 2026

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Thank yous
   Thank you to our outgoing council for all of their contributions.
   Thank you to the election committee for their work preparing for and running the election at our last meeting.
   Thank you to all of our new members for rallying quickly to form committees and get the work of council underway for this school year. Special shoutout to Gavin for wrestling the budget into shape, Ulrica for drafting our fundraising text, Kristina for hosting multiple coffee and walks, and Tanja for responding quickly to guidance requests for supplies.
   Thank you to all members of the parent community who have already donated to our annual fundraising campaign.

2. Welcome
   Welcome to the new voting members of council including the new student rep (Lucy). A warm welcome to all members of the Northern Community who are joining us today.

3. Executive Changes:
   Thank you to Margaret who initially put her hand up as co-treasurer. She will be pivoting to lead the organization of our teacher appreciation events and also coordinate parent volunteers for the Student Nutrition Program once that is up and running.

   Gavin will continue as Treasurer. Thank you also to Carolyn Lam Leventis, a parent volunteer who will be joining our budget committee. We appreciate her attention to detail and Excel mastery!

4. Election Results:
   The municipal election was held on October 26th. Northern is located in the Don Valley ward and our elected school trustee is Farzana Rajwani. We eagerly await the end of supervision so that our elected representatives can begin their work.

5. Caring and Safe Schools Committee:
   The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17th at 4 pm in the Heritage Room. Our focus this year will be a campaign to allow students the freedom to pee in peace without having to compete with vaping in the bathrooms. Any interested students, teachers and families are welcome to attend.

6. WhatsApp Community - For parents, by parents
   Northern is a large school that draws families from a wide geographic area. Meeting other parents can be difficult. To facilitate discussion and information sharing, council has established a WhatsApp group that is open to current parents. This is meant to be a positive space to allow parents to ask questions and connect with other parents.
   Join our WhatsApp community

7. Grade 8 Open House
   Northern's grade 8 open house will take place on Thursday, November 26th from 6-8 pm. As they do every year, we expect that our student leaders will present a compelling case for why students would have an amazing experience at Northern. School Council will be running a table at this event, and all members of council are welcome to attend.

8. School Council Innovation Grant.
   School Councils can apply for up to $1500 to offer programming for parents and caregivers or that builds council's capacity.. The topics are prescribed and options this year include the following:
   - Chronic Absenteeism Parents/caregivers developing strategies to address barriers to school attendance, reducing absenteeism and improving student engagement
   - Mental Health and Well-Being Communities experience improved mental health and well-being, reduced stigma, and greater emotional support for parents/caregivers.
   - Human Rights Racialized parents and caregivers feel a sense of belonging and empowerment, actively addressing racism, bias, and systemic barriers.
   - Food Sovereignty Increased access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate local food, with improved knowledge of food security and sovereignty.
   - Civil Discourse/Courageous Conversations Parents/caregivers and school communities engage in respectful, open conversations on challenging topics, fostering greater understanding and inclusion
   - Navigating Technology and Artificial Intelligence (For Parents/Caregivers) Parents and caregivers gain a deeper understanding of AI and technology, equipping them to support their children's use of digital tools and navigate future advancements
   If there are parents or council members who would like to contribute to an application, we would love to hear your thoughts. Kathleen will be the lead author of our application this year.

9. Upcoming Tasks
   An updated School Statement of Needs (SSON) will be prepared and posted on our website for review by council and the parent community.