

June 19, 2020

Dear Banting parents,

I hope this 2019/20 Annual Report finds you and your family healthy and well despite the ongoing challenges of this pandemic. This is a time unlike any we have seen before, and one I hope we will not see again in our lifetime. Everyone within our community and abroad have weathered an unprecedented disruption to our lives and to the education and health care system, which has mobilized to meet the necessary changes in a way that many would not have thought possible over such a short time.

Since March 16, 2020, there have been extraordinary efforts to pivot quickly in finishing the school end term. All of this is in no small part thanks to all of you! The transition to online teaching has been partially, if not completely, challenging for everyone – students, teachers, administrators and parents. Even with the best of practices in online format, nothing can replace the social interactions of our school environment. Yet, I continue to be so impressed with the outstanding efforts of our students, families, teachers and administrative staff who continued to work collaboratively to carry out the important work of Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School, while prioritizing the health and safety of the community. These are definitely trying times and everyone's extra efforts are appreciated.

Prior to the pandemic, Banting's school council, which is an advisory body of volunteers who work together to provide ideas and opinions to help the principal and sometimes the school district make the school a better place for learning, met six times over the 2019/20 calendar year. Below is a sampling of initiatives and projects that the council supported in 2019/20 with a *total year expense spending of \$262.36 of our existing annual budget of \$500* from our parent involvement funds:

- Developing a parent-focused initiative to support families to receive diverse community resources. This Family Night Round up event on Oct. 17, 2019 included diverse local community service providers such as: Northwest London Resource Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, Middlesex/London Health Unit, London Public LibraryAnd more providing informative details and resources to our Bronco community.
- Supporting two Financial Literacy Training sessions for grade 9-11 students; sponsored by CPA Ontario. Events held on March 12, 2020 included: (1) Budgeting and Savings; (2) Credit cards - assessing good v bad debt.
- Collaborating with the Northwest London Resource Centre on various parent engagement and youth activities.
- Continuing to collaborate with families and assisting with developing a community network profile of services.
- Planning upcoming parent engagement activities/community engagement sessions.

Of course these initiatives could not have been possible if not for the many committed parents who volunteered their time and who have supported these initiatives. Your 2019/20 school council included: Richard Tamminga (Principal); Silvie MacLean (Chair); Jill-Anne Mabey (Treasurer-Secretary); Raymond Yee (Parent rep); John Dubois (Parent rep); Laura Gonzalez (Parent rep); Dev Sainani (Parent rep); Jennifer Charlton (Parent rep); Mike Hanson (Parent rep); Neil Banerjee (Parent rep); Cheryl Bovington (Parent rep); Amani Radhaa (Community rep); Eric Neibert (Teacher rep); and Rajan Sharma (student rep).

The school council meetings are open to our Banting Bronco community. At this time, the return of in-class and school council activity is subject to the approval of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). The TVDSB will continue to update the community regularly to keep you informed of additional measures. In the meanwhile, please feel free to read up on the progress on the school council on the Banting Parent Portal. Questions can also be emailed to the Chair at sc-sirfrederickbanting@tvpic.ca Even if you don't have time to attend meetings or read up on the parent portal, recognize the importance of supporting your child and community by 3 things: listening; learning & leading. To everyone in our Banting community, and on behalf of school council, I wish you and your loved ones all the best in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,
Silvie MacLean, Chair