

ASCA Engagement Event - November 23, 2024



Fireside Chat – How does your School Council/Community contribute to positive mental health? How does your School Council engage your School Community?

- We pay for a dinner for staff every parent/teacher interview (so 3 times per year on a day where they can't leave to get dinner and then the staff can all eat together)
- Our high school does a Christmas coffee cart for staff, run by parents. Teachers love it!
- We provide supper to our teachers during parent teacher interviews
- Our School Council and Parent Association have been doing monthly staff appreciation treats which sounds like it has been very appreciated.
- At {name of school}, we also do a coffee cart. Staff will have the option of a catered dinner on the night of the Christmas Concert, or lunch the following day. We opened anonymous notes for families to write to teachers at PT interviews. We have families provide a potluck luncheon at the end of the year.
- Last year we did a secret class gift for each teacher- we took them class by class to the art room and did a fingerprint heart
- We did a dance last year from which the funds are specific for council initiatives. That funds conference, presentations, staff appreciation as the ASCE grant only goes so far
- Cookie-off
- Our parents volunteer to provide food. We also do a turkey dinner by our school but parent volunteers will serve the food. Parents provide desserts for this.
- The last day of school for our staff (staff only day, day after students last day of school) our School Council/Parent Fundraising Assn. provided breakfast for the staff. They LOVED having pancakes and the assorted treats.
- Last year we did presentations about the impacts of technology (including the eye opening stats on users etc). This year we are continuing along those lines...and just had a discussion on Window of Tolerance, where we learned every school in our division actually has a comprehensive school health lead. We are hoping to engage and plan more events that align for parents and students.
- We have been working on an inclusive education room in our elementary so kids have a place to safely regulate and have found this to be helpful for both neurotypical and neurodiverse kids in and out of the classrooms with less disruption and happier kiddos!
- Donut worry be happy - meet your teacher have a donut instead of a meet and greet bbq it was well received and we had such a wonderful turn out

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- Our Council in {name of municipality} puts on a community wide Marathon every year, developed by our last Chair, inviting families and community members to get active together. We end the marathon as a school wide last kilometer walk to the lake and hold a large prize giveaway! The kids and families Love it!
- We also run a One Book Whole school event, Council provides a chapter book to each family that we all read together and answer some fun questions. Gets families to read together, as well as older grades reading to the younger kids
- We provide a signup genius with a “menu” that we are putting together for breakfasts and lunches over the course of the last December week before the break. We also invite parents to donate money if that works better for them. That money is used to round out the December event, and the remainder goes to a Spring coffee cart (plus fancy croissants).
- It’s a specialized room with an inclusive Ed teacher of its own, students needing extra support or regulation can go there to learn or decompress. And it helps both the special needs kiddos to thrive but also creates less stress in classrooms for both teachers and students. There’s learning areas and quiet spaces with many tools for students.
- Pancake breakfast on PD days when teachers are in the building. Pre planned with principal.
- Breakfast club for students, where they can enter the building early in the mornings to receive a healthy breakfast. Principal saw that kids do better in general with breakfast in the morning.
- We do a Welcome Back Dessert night/meet the teacher the week before school starts, funded by school council, and a family bbq at the end of the year, mainly funded by school, but supported by school council. We also do a movie night or two a year and a family dance. Movie nights and dance supported by School Council Funds, but different school groups/clubs take on the event for a cause they are working towards/for. For example, we sponsored a movie night and the Diversity Club used the sales for that to help fund a Welcome sign for the front of our school that included Welcome in all the languages of our school community. Any and all events that bring our school community together are a win!
- Our parent council members get together at the beginning of Dec to decorate the school with Christmas decorations for the kids. Our kids absolutely love it

[How does your School Council use its ASCE Grant?](#)

- Ours gets used to attend the ASCA conference.
- One thing that has really helped us get parents to meetings is providing babysitting during the meeting. Tripled our numbers!
- We had a group called Saffron come out and give our parents an internet safety presentation.
- We brought in a presenter that was a presenter at conference last year.
- One year we used it to create a fridge magnet with a QR code with direct link to the School Council page of the school website.