**What ideas do you have to encourage parents to volunteer for individual activities at the school?**

Answered: 43

Send a list of the actual jobs available that need a volunteer. Many of us don't know what's needed (and what the potential time commitment would be - which can be limiting for some). I imagine that knowing there is a specific need would help with involvement. Thanks!!

- Plan inspiring events that will draw in more volunteers (eg. annual soirée). - Solicit parents for their suggestions on activities first and involve them in the development of it.

Reliability and good support

How about a sign-up, where we can see what is needed and when, and we can put it on the calendar in advance? I need to re-arrange my work things to be able to come. I wish I could help out more.

Respect that some parents don't have flexibility in their schedules and be grateful for those that do. Show some kind of appreciation for those who do volunteer.

Increased forewarning

I'm not sure. I would love to pitch in, but as my husband and I both work full time and have commitments with the kids after school most days, it's hard to do.

I love how proud and happy my kids are when they see me involved at the school. Maybe share some of our kids thoughts with them.

Opportunities for working parents to get involved during after work hours.

Emails. more approachable officers

inflexible work schedule it is almost impossible to be at the school to help with events.

campaign reaching all parents

idea/suggestion that if every family did ONE thing for the school, how much of a difference we could make in a school year. Could give some examples of how it could be one small thing, but with 200+ families that would add up to a HUGE impact.

Work commitments make this tough. If we can find activities families are willing to experience with the children, there maybe more volunteers.

I think for a lot of families it's a privilege to volunteer. Not everyone's work/parenting schedule can permit helping out, and it's unrealistic to expect everyone to want to. Maybe if volunteer opportunities were more spread out in terms of time of day/week?

Parents are likely to volunteer for and perform well in activities they’re passionate about, so perhaps look at aligning activities and interests

take turn(not by feeling obligated but taking turn at least one time might work)

sense of community, connection, friendship

Sharing as much information as possible about the needs of the school. We're new + just learning how to be a part of the community.

Give a wide variety of times that parents can commit to. If a parent works full time, out of the home, it is nearly impossible to commit to an activity Mon- Fri during school hours.

Make different grades responsible for different activities.

Emailing out a list of whatever volunteer positions are needing to be filled whenever they present themselves is great!

Keep communicating to get more parents to come out. Many parents work but can come periodically but need to know more about how they can help.

Organized agenda, clear decision making, accountability via principal reports and action! Starting with some quick wins will help build momentum to get parents on board, feeling like their time and input is valued. I think we need to balance consultation with just jumping in and making some decisions. The PAC has some additional funds (which is awesome!) and I think we need to be a little less cautious about spending. I would also like to see alignment with what teachers are asking for. Clearly they need some iPads, so let's do it! I would also like to suggest that all class parents attend the PAC meetings as much as possible to take advantage of their liaison role to communicate with parents.

Support guaranteed minimum income for all Canadians so parents are available to assist and spend time at the school regardless of wealth

This is a tough one to answer, because it often comes down to the fact that we live in an expensive city, and people have to work. I find the PAC is good at communicating when there are volunteer opportunities, but I don't know how to encourage busy parents to take part. Maybe a little more guilt?

- sports events, flexibility in timing, cultural/music/etc expertise and teaching opportunity

Multiculturalism

Parents should relax and be less judgmental of each other

Send out a list of all volunteer opportunities ahead of time.

Sending out an email with different volunteer roles that we can signup for would be great. I know you’ve done this in the past and I think it is very effective . Thank you for all you do!! Our PAC is fantastic!!

Individual, face to face, personal requests. Class parents to organize a social get together to increase interactivity within each cohort of parents.

More direct info from teachers directly for reminders- maybe a poster board or signage outside so people can be reminded? Some schools have PAC night banners etc- more visual involvement

Email requests or ask in person

Lots of advanced warning and specific time slots for working parents so they can plan for it in their schedule

Such a tough one. I'd say work hardest on the K moms because the kids are young and the parents are around a lot.

Better communication - emails are great, especially from teachers when volunteers are needed for class activity. Hold PAC events after school so that parents dont have to take so much time off work to attend.

Direct calls for specific events - maybe with a Google calendar that shows upcoming volunteer opportunities so folks can book dates?

An honest appeal to parents who are not involved that their help is needed and they are an important member of the PAC.

Movie night

That’s a tough Q given that so many families have 2 working parents.

More spreading the word in person. Direct requests.