



# School Council Annual Report

## 1. SCHOOL COUNCIL PROFILE for Reporting Year: 2017/2018

School Name:	Cochrane Christian Academy
Principal:	Allan Elkin
School Council Chair/Co-chair(s):	Ellen Covey
School Council Secretary:	Debra Clarke/ Erin Neilson
School Council Treasurer:	n/a
Teacher Representative:	Rachelle Prud'Homme
Kindergarten Representative:	n/a

## 2. MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR

The 2017/18 academic year marks my first year as solo Council Chair – it was with great gratitude (and no small does of regret) that we bid farewell to Michelle Copithorne, who has served CCA with such extraordinary intelligence, commitment and diligence for the past five years. We were blessed to have Erin Neilson continue as Secretary, sharing the position with Debra Clarke in order to accommodate increasingly busy schedules. Our meetings were well attended by a core group of 15-20 parents and staff, and it was with great delight we welcomed the input of our ALIVE student leadership team on numerous occasions over the year. Overall we enjoyed a strong council presence of committed, supportive parents who voiced their encouragement and passion to the staff, and it has been my pleasure to serve this community as Chair of this council.

## 3. SCHOOL COUNCIL FOUNDATION STATEMENTS

**Vision:** Working together, the school and Council foster an effective, supportive and progressive learning environment in which all students can aspire to achieve their academic potential and God Given purpose.

**Mission:** The Mission of the CCA Parent Council is to foster the well-being and effectiveness of our school community and thereby enhance student learning.

**Beliefs:** The shared principles and values that guide all actives of the Council are:

- a. We believe each member of the school community has a distinct and different role to play in educating a student, and that the best possible education for the student is achieved when the school community works together to respect, support and facilitate each other's role.
- b. We believe effective partnerships are built upon understanding, trust and mutual respect through Christian brotherly love, which is best fostered through honest and open communication within the school community.
- c. We believe honest and open communication ensures that:



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- i. The school community has the opportunity to present information and issues to the Council; The school community is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the issues and proposals of the Council; and
  - ii. The Council is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the issues and proposals of the school community.
- d. We believe the success of our school is dependent upon all of the partners working toward Christian unity and thereby having one vision for our school.
- e. We believe our school's vision must:
- i. Have a foundation of Christian principles;
  - ii. Focus on the collective academic, spiritual and emotional needs of all the students in our school; and
  - iii. Address the educational needs unique to the students in this school, while staying within the parameters of the local and provincial standards and curriculum.
- f. We believe, with the exception of the confidential student records and other privileged documents, the school community should have full and open access to the school, Board, and Alberta Education information on all aspects of public education.
- g. We understand the school administration has the authority to determine which, if any, of the decisions made by the Council will be implemented at our school, and we further believe the school administration should communicate to the Council and school community the reasons, justification and principles for which those decisions were accepted, rejected or modified.
- h. We believe each member of the Council is responsible for acting in and making decisions based upon the best interests of all the students in the school.

### 4. RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

CCA School Council has once again enjoyed a full year working with Staff, Administration and RVS Board addressing the ongoing needs of our school community. It was encouraging to observe the positive results of the RVSD annual survey, which demonstrated CCA's strong position in the areas of achievement and parent/student satisfaction, and staff were keen to address the areas where they believe they can achieve even higher results in the years to come.

School Council also launched the first Facebook page for CCA, an exciting initiative as we sought to establish our first social media presence to assist in engaging with our community in a strategic new way. The aim of this page is to increase engagement as well as effective, timely communications in the social media space.

School Council also coordinated with the Friends of CCA Society to assist them in fundraising for the school, including a fantastic bake sale that raised over \$1300 for the Society!

School Council helped to promote a variety of school events such as welcoming and helping students (both new and returning) and their parents on the first day of school, the "Meet the Teacher Dessert", 3-Way Conferences, the Christmas Concert, the CCA Open House, and Kindergarten Orientation. Council is excited to partner with Friends of CCA as we expand the Meet the Teacher Dessert evening into a school-wide BBQ, to re-connect with families and enhance the sense of community as we share a meal together to kick off the 2018 school year!



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### 5. CHALLENGES

Call it deja vu - our year once again began with a larger than anticipated community as the Fireside School joined the CCA/Mitford schools until their school was completed. All schools involved rose to the challenge of accommodating the increased numbers on the playground as well as increased traffic during the busy pick-up/drop-off times. Both Mitford and CCA are now quite accustomed to sharing our environment and amazing collaborative opportunities have continued to arise and be embraced by our schools. This is a wonderful testament to the administration, staff and students. It looks like there are no new school communities joining us for fall 2018, so we should be back to our regular student populations come the new school season.

### 6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT (attachment)

### 7. APPENDIX – Minutes of School Council Meetings (attachment)