



Birch Cliff Broadcast

Rights Respect Responsibility Success



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BCPS School Council Updates

This Birch Cliff Broadcast will have a School Council focus. The regular Broadcast for school wide events and happenings will come out tomorrow. Please take a read below to learn a little bit about the 17 parent candidates who are interested in being voting members of our Parent Council.

School
Council 

Suresh Doss

I am a parent of Nolan Doss, a local reporter and supporter of the community. I love all things Scarborough.



J.J. McCarthy

My name is J.J. McCarthy and I'm putting my name forward for parent council.

My daughter Lennon just started at Birchcliff and I want to do anything I can to help make Birch Cliff a better place for every kid walking through those doors.

A while back I helped start the Birchcliff Watch Unit, a small neighbourhood group focused on the everyday safety issues in the area. Working alongside our councillor and a handful of other committed neighbours, we recently got the north/south stop sign at Birchcliff and Freeman approved and installed. We also secured a crossing guard at Warden and Freeman, a request that had been turned down on previous attempts. We're still working with the councillor's office on other safety concerns in the area.

Getting those approved took persistence, research, respectful and collaborative communication, and knowing who to bring to the table and what to bring with them.

That's what I'd bring to this council. I'm not here to make noise. I'm here to follow through on the things parents actually care about, whether that's school improvements, fundraising, or making sure our teachers feel supported.

Benn Brisland

My name is Benn Brisland, and I'm a parent of two children at Birch Cliff. I'm also a social worker who is passionate about building inclusive, welcoming communities where every child and family feels valued. I bring creativity, enthusiasm, and a knack for finding practical solutions and fresh ways to engage our school community. This would be my fourth year serving on School Council, and I would love the opportunity to continue collaborating with families and staff to help make Birch Cliff the best it can be.

Richelle Wheeler

My name is Richelle Wheeler, and I'm a proud Birch Cliff parent, local Realtor, and the current Chair of the Birch Cliff School Council. Our family has been part of the Birch Cliff community for many years, and as my daughter Jessie enters Grade 8, I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue giving back to a school that has been such an important part of our lives.

I believe strongly that an engaged Parent Council can make a meaningful difference in the experience of our students, families, and staff. I bring leadership, organization, communication skills, and a willingness to roll up my sleeves and get things done. I'm passionate about building community, supporting school initiatives and events, fundraising, and ensuring parents feel informed, welcomed, and heard.

As we begin our final year at Birch Cliff, I would be honoured to continue serving our school community and helping make it another successful and memorable year.

Shariful Huque

I am a dedicated parent who believes that strong communication and collaboration between families, teachers, and the school community are essential to creating a positive learning environment for every child. I would like to serve on the School Council to contribute my time, ideas, and perspective as a parent and help support initiatives that benefit our students and school community.

I am interested in listening to parents' concerns, working collaboratively with staff and other council members, and helping build a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive school environment. I believe every child should have the opportunity to feel safe, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Through my professional experience, I have developed strong communication, organization, problem-solving, and teamwork skills that I hope to bring to the council. Most importantly, I want to be an engaged parent and make a meaningful contribution to our school community.

Alyssa Lioutas

I hope to return as a member of our school council this year to continue exploring the issues that impact BCPS families, and collaborating on solutions that promote connection and wellbeing at school.

My background in public relations and my current work in counselling inform my belief in the immeasurable value of nurturing a strong, supportive, and empowering community. This is my seventh year as a BCPS parent, and my kids are in grades 5 and 2 in the English program.

Shannon Howanyk

For the past three years, I've been a voting member of School Council, and I'd love the opportunity to continue for another year. I enjoy being involved, helping things happen behind the scenes, and being part of a Council that supports our students, families and staff.

You may know me from Pizza Lunch! I co-lead the program with Robynne. And throughout the year, that means working with our pizza vendor, coordinating parent volunteers, managing the Munchalunch ordering system, answering emails and troubleshooting the occasional pizza emergency. It's a lot of moving pieces, but I genuinely enjoy it (and I now know how to get 350 kids pizza in less than 30 minutes!).

Over the past three years, I've learned a lot about our school and our community. I'm dependable, collaborative and always happy to pitch in. I'd love to continue bringing my time, energy and experience to School Council.

Glenn Kremp

My passion for growing our school so all students can achieve their goals, my heart as a parent, and my experience building our strong school community. I would be honored to be your co-chair one last time.

Samantha Stermac

Im a mom of an SK & Grade 3. In previous years I've managed the annual silent auction, volunteered with council run events and attended council meetings. I look forward to continuing to support our amazing community this year. If re-elected as a voting member, I'll use my vote to ensure funds are used to support student success and community development at our school.

Cory Megitt

I have proudly served on the Parent Council for the past three years, working alongside fellow parents, school staff, and community members to support initiatives that enhance the student experience. During my time on the Council, I have contributed to a variety of projects and have taken an active role in managing the Council website and supporting parent communications. These responsibilities have helped improve the sharing of important information and strengthened engagement within our school community.

I am committed to fostering collaboration, transparency, and meaningful parent involvement. By continuing to serve on the Parent Council, I hope to build on the progress we have made, support new initiatives, and help ensure that parents' voices remain an important part of our school community.

Robynne McKinlay

My name is Robynne and I would like to run for Parent Council because I am passionate about being involved in our school community and supporting opportunities that benefit our students and families. This will be my 11th year involved with the school, including four years as a voting member of Parent Council. Over the years, I have gained valuable experience working with parents, teachers, and volunteers to help organize successful school initiatives. I currently run our Pizza Lunch program with Shannon, which involves managing the Munchalunch ordering system, coordinating with teachers, organizing distribution the day of, and addressing parent emails. I also organize the Purdy's spring fundraiser and have been working in classrooms for the past two years as an emergency replacement person. I enjoy contributing my time, organization, and experience to the school, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue representing our parent community. I look forward to working collaboratively to support our students and make a positive difference in our school.

Lynsey Kowalski

Hi! I'm Lynsey, and I'm a mom of two children at Birch Cliff PS, currently in French Immersion.

I've been a voting member of School Council for the past three years (and your friendly face behind the IG account) and have really enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in our school community. I'm passionate about helping make our school the best it can be for all of our kids, while also making sure parents and caregivers feel informed, represented, and connected.

Over the past few years, I've enjoyed helping with school events, communications, fundraising initiatives, and finding ways to strengthen the connection between families, staff, and our wider community. I believe School Council works best when we have a variety of voices at the table and can work collaboratively toward positive, practical changes.

I would love the opportunity to continue as a voting member this year, contribute wherever I can, and help make the 2026–2027 school year a great one for our students and families!

Ashley O'Rourke

I love BCPS! I am passionate about making our school community a better place for all of the students and families here, to ensuring all our students and teachers have what they need to be setup for success, and about helping to raise the funds needed to accomplish those goals. As a 4 year member of the parent Council and previous voting member, I co-chaired Pumkinfest and the Fun Fair last year, and was involved in holiday initiatives and grade 8 graduation. My kids are in grade 5 and 7, and you can usually find me around the school in a brightly coloured outfit 🌈. I'm hoping for your vote so I can continue to help with all of these initiatives, and continue to bring more of them to fruition.

Megan Evans

Hello, my name is Megan Evans, and I was honoured to serve as a SAC Voting Member last year. I have a daughter in Grade 2 and have been attending SAC meetings since she started school. This will be my fourth year volunteering with Pizza Lunch. I enjoy connecting with parents, students and staff, and being part of the energy that makes our school community so special. I would love the chance to continue supporting and contributing in ways that bring us all together.

Liana Saccoccia

Hi, I'm Liana, and I'm a parent of a student at Birch Cliff PS. I'm excited to put my name forward for School Council because I'd love to become more involved in the school community and contribute to making Birch Cliff an even better place for our kids and families.

Professionally, I work in a senior operations leadership role, where much of my job involves problem-solving, organizing initiatives, managing budgets and bringing people together to get things done. My husband and I also own a small business in the neighbourhood, which has given me an even greater appreciation for the strong sense of community we have in Birch Cliff.

I'd bring a practical, collaborative approach to Council and would be happy to contribute wherever I can—particularly with events, fundraising, organization and new ideas. Most importantly, I'd love the opportunity to connect with other parents and help support our students, teachers and school community.

Natalie Da Silva

I'm running for Parent Council because I believe being involved is one of the best ways I can contribute to our school community and help make a positive difference for our students. After serving as Treasurer last year, I saw firsthand how the time and effort of parent volunteers can translate into meaningful opportunities, resources and experiences for our kids. I'd like to continue contributing my skills and experience, while working collaboratively with other parents and school staff to make Birch Cliff an even stronger community.

Kayla Nugent

I have been a proud parent at our school for 10 years, with my oldest in grade 8 and my youngest child now in JK, I look forward to being part of this community for another 10 years. I care deeply about supporting our students, families and staff and helping make our school welcoming and fun. Over the years, I have helped organize and support many school initiatives, including Christmas hampers, food, clothing and toy drives, the Krispy Kreme fundraiser, Pumpkin Fest, and Parent vs. Kids Night and more. These experiences have allowed me to build strong relationships with families and better understand the needs of our school community. I would be honoured to continue serving on Parent Council, bringing my experience, dedication and willingness to listen, collaborate and work hard to help every child and family feel supported.



First SAC Meeting and Voting: Wednesday, September 30. Join us in person at the school or virtually via Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared closer to the meeting date. Voting will be online from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Stay connected for updates, events and ways to get involved:



Instagram: @birchcliffcouncil



birchcliffcouncil.ca

We're looking forward to a great year at Birch Cliff!