

Hello parents! We, as a newly renovated PAC, have spent the last three years working hard to bring together the families of Ray Shepherd Elementary to support our amazing teachers and staff and to create the best supported learning environment for our kids. This new executive was formed at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. We hit the ground running with the creation of a few new fun fundraisers like the Welcome Back BBQ, the Parents Pub Night and the Mayfair.

As a former Alumni of Ray Shepherd and having both my kids go through the school, I believe that creating a close community is the best way to support what's going on at our school. The more we get to know each other and become familiar with other parents the more we can rely on each other in this great community of people, with the common goal of giving our children the best education and school experience we can.

By creating amazing relationships with the teachers and staff we have learned what's needed and wanted so that we could tailor our efforts in the best way possible. In the first three years we raised over \$115,000.000!!! This is amazing!!! There have been a lot of questions about how the money is spent. Although these reports are posted on the school website and discussed and voted on at the PAC meetings, we wanted to reach out after a few parents where asking.

Every year we sponsor the teachers, support classrooms and the Library with spending funds that they would otherwise be using their own money for. A large majority of the spending has gone to upgrading our technology. We purchased a whole set of thirty laptops, chargers, charging cart and software so that now we have a full cart on each floor. We also did another similar purchase of iPad and cart etc., as well as Tech items like cameras, mini iPads, laptops and software to support our technology and art clubs. All of those technology purchases were over \$72,000.00 and have brought our tech program up to date. We are now in a maintenance stage. We have also purchased new gym equipment, new school jerseys, supported the Art Club, supported our graduating Alumni with 2 scholarships every year at Elgin Secondary School, had multiple Art Start performances, provided the funds to pay for Hip Hop, rollerblading and other really fun school wide activities. We have hosted media safety information nights, hosted a Syrian Refugee Picnic and many other school activities. We also support our Librarian with a yearly donation for purchasing, and supporting any projects she comes to us with.

The Ray Shepherd PAC is a hard working group of parents whose only purpose is to support your child's experience at our school. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by email at [philandaime@shaw.ca](mailto:philandaime@shaw.ca) or attend a PAC meeting! Please know you are always welcome.

Our yearly reports are available on the school website. Our PAC meetings are usually on the third Tuesday of each month in the teacher's lounge. Reminders are sent out through the school email system.

Thank you so much for all of your continued support!!!

Aimee McDonald  
PAC President