

Welcoming Strategy for New Families

Starting at a new school can be an exciting but daunting time for everyone in the family. This can be felt even more strongly by families that have recently immigrated to Canada, and/or are still developing their familiarity with the English language. Please review the list below of Rickson Parents/Guardians who are happy to connect with you and your family, as you get to know the Rickson community. If this list does not include the language you are most comfortable speaking/writing, please contact ricksonschoolcouncil@gmail.com and we will reach out to others.

Name & Contact Details	Grade/Cohort of their Student(s)	Cultural Self-Identification, if any	Language(s) Spoken
Aimen Fatima aimenf@gmail.com	Kindergarten Primary	Pakistani/South Asian	Urdu, English
Akash Singh akisingh13@yahoo.ca	Kindergarten	Indian	Hindi, Punjabi, English
Irene Gregorio 519-589-9971 gregorio.irene@gmail.com	Junior Special Needs	Filipino	Cebuano, Spanish, English
Jenny Fender jennifer.m.fender@gmail.com	Primary Intermediate		Some Spanish (not fluent), English
Jill Carlyle missjillybeans@gmail.com	Primary Junior Intermediate Special needs	English Canadian	English
Jyll Weinberg-Martin 519-546-8952 jyllwm@gmail.com	Intermediate	Jewish	English
Lisa Alberico 519-830-5940 lisaschuster@gmail.com	Junior		French, English
Milishia Chreif milishia@yahoo.com	Primary Junior	Middle Eastern	Farsi/Persian, English Access to Arabic
Nav Gill nav_ca@hotmail.com	Primary Junior		Punjabi, Hindi, English
Tamer Salib tamersalib77@gmail.com	Junior	Egyptian	Arabic, English
Varsha Pasel 416-846-1342 varshapasel@gmail.com	Junior Intermediate	South Asian/Indian	Tamil (Chennai), Hindi, English
Vik Chauhan 905-962-6031 chauhan.vik@gmail.com	Junior Intermediate	Canadian Indian	Punjabi, Hindi, English
Afia Asante Davis pokuaahasante@gmail.com	Kindergarten	African/Ghanaian	Twi, English

Be A Part of School Council at Rickson Ridge Public School

What is School Council About?

Good schools become better schools when parents/guardians and educators partner together. The volunteer efforts of School Council help to build relationships that strengthen our school and its community. This partnership is built on collaboration between teachers, principals, families, guardians, students, school boards, government and the community.

The Rickson Ridge School Council gathers formally around 6 times per school year. We receive updates on what is happening at the school and provide feedback on school initiatives. As a parent/guardian group that works alongside Rickson Administration and Staff, our work is focused on equity, family engagement, school experiences and resources, fundraising, and volunteering.

Ultimately, we are a group of people who want to foster an engaging and supportive school community where students receive a strong education, build social connections, develop a growth mindset and demonstrate respect for the land which we share.

What Have We Done?

In the last few years, Rickson School Council has been busy! Here are some of the things we have accomplished through teamwork, community donations, and fundraising:

- Student Experiences: Lunch/Snack Program, Scientists in School, Silver Birch Reading Program, Danceathon, Outdoor Environment Development, Grade 8 and Kindergarten Graduations.
- Community/Donation Activities: Keep Cozy Winter Hat & Mitts Drive, Guelph Food Bank Charity Drive, Clothing Swap.
- Family Engagement Events: Family Fun Night/Carnival, Movie Nights, Cuddle Up & Read, Math Night, Guest Speakers.
- School Resources: Chromebooks, Classroom TVs, library and gym supplies, musical instruments.
- Equity Initiatives: Rickson Equity Fund, Parent Welcoming Strategy, Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Event Planning Checklist.

Join Us!

We would love for you to be an active part of our community. Whether you can help one time for an event or be a regular council meeting member, there is a role for everyone and each voice is valued. Here are three ways you can get involved:

1. Email ricksonschoolcouncil@gmail.com to volunteer, to join the email list, or just to ask questions.
2. Attend any of the meetings. You can join at any time. To be a voting member, you must attend at least half of the meetings that have been held for that school year.
3. If you are interested in being part of the Council Executive or a Parent Member, please submit the self-nomination form to the Principal before the first meeting in September. This form is available on the school website.