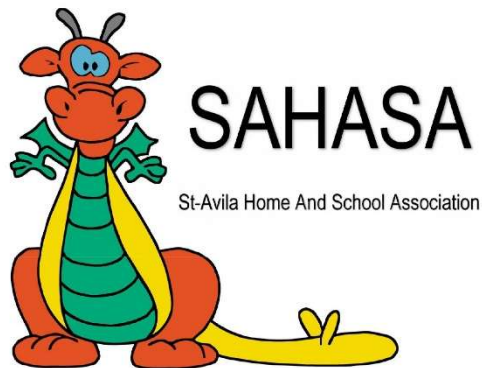




St. Avila's Parent Council- Explained!



École St. Avila's Parent Council: What is "SAHASA?"

The **St. Avila Home and School Association (SAHASA)**, also called a "parent council," is a group of parents/caregivers from the school that organizes fun events and activities for École St. Avila's students. These activities are "**extras**" that add to the positive experience our children have at school, build school spirit, and care for our school community.

St. Avila Parent Council Monthly Meetings

Parents meet monthly at the school to share ideas and feedback and discuss ways we can support our students and staff. At the meeting, we plan and report on SAHASA's events and activities. The Principal and Vice-Principal also share updates. Questions are welcome, but please contact the teacher or principal directly if you have any issues to discuss. SAHASA votes in board members in the fall. **ALL St. Avila parents / caregivers are welcome to attend meetings.**

WHY ATTEND PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS?

- Get involved in the school community.
- Find out more about school activities & events.
- Hear from school leadership.
- Give feedback and ideas.
- Meet other St. Avila parents and caregivers.

SAHASA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES – OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

- Free École St. Avila T-shirts for all students
- School grounds care: fall & spring clean-ups
- Halloween Dance (October 30)
- Movie Nights (November 20 & January 22)
- Free Pancake Breakfast (February)
- Staff Appreciation month (Tuesdays in April)
- Family Fun Night (June 4)
- Free Year-End Picnic Lunch (June 18)
- Grade 6 Farewell gifts & lunch (June)
- Repairs for our play structures, as needed
- And more!

Note: Information and dates subject to change.

SAHASA Fundraisers

The parent council runs fundraisers to raise money to pay for extra activities and events. Fundraisers are always voluntary – you do not have to participate, but we appreciate when you do! The events SAHASA plans are open to all students, regardless of whether they participate in any fundraisers.

Parent Volunteers at School

St. Avila's parent council is made up of parents who are all volunteers. These parents organize the council's activities and events, with assistance from the school. To make these events happen, **more parent volunteers are needed – which brings us to you!** If you can, we encourage you to volunteer for an event during the year. It's a great way to meet other parents and learn more about the school. Watch your email for volunteer **Sign-ups** throughout the school year. (Note: Field trip volunteers are organized by the school.)

Fun Lunch & Milk Programs (St. Avila Parent Council)

Students in **Grades 1 to 6** can choose to buy milk and/or special lunches. **This is optional and is organized simply to add some fun to the school day.** You do not have to order anything.

- All orders are made online with the MunchaLunch program.
- Lunches: select Thursdays: Domino's Pizza, Pita Pit & Subway.
- Milk can be ordered 2, 3, or 5 days a week.
- Fun Lunch is different from the supervised lunch program, a required fee for kids who eat lunch at school. That pays for lunch supervisors while teachers have their lunch breaks.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation (St. Avila Parent Council)

In April, the parent council organizes a thank you for the workers who pour their energy into our kids' lives. Parents sign up to bring food to school for teachers and school staff to snack on. Some families also give a thank you card and/or small gift (such as a gift card, chocolates, or flowers) to their teachers before the December holiday break and/or at the end of the school year in June, but this is each family's choice and not an expectation.



SPECIAL SCHOOL DAYS



Students are encouraged (but not required) to wear certain colour shirts (or accessories) on special days.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: September 30 is National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. It is deeply connected to Orange Shirt Day, which honours a young Indigenous girl, whose new orange shirt was taken from her at a residential school and replaced with the school uniform. The orange shirt is now a symbol for the loss of identity and culture experienced by Indigenous children in residential schools. Kids wear orange shirts to spread the message that "Every Child Matters." This is part of on-going Indigenous education at school.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK: In April, this day brings awareness to anti-bullying and discrimination. A boy from Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing pink, and his classmates stood up for him by also wearing pink. Kids are encouraged to wear pink on this day to stand up to bullying and to encourage kids to treat each other with kindness.

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS: Every student receives a free school T-shirt from the parent council. Students can wear their school T-shirt anytime. Many students wear them on Fridays, at school sporting events, field trips, and concerts.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS - GAME DAYS: Students may wear team colours to cheer on our local Winnipeg Blue Bombers or Winnipeg Jets on special game days.



SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Halloween: October 31 *(celebrated on another day at school if it falls on a weekend)*

- Option to wear a costume.
- May bring a treat to eat at snack time.
- No scary or violent costumes.
- No masks or toy weapons allowed.

Valentine's Day: February 14 *(celebrated on another day at school if it falls on a weekend)*

- Kids give cards to all students in the class.
- Kids can make their own cards (e.g. hearts cut out of red construction paper.)
- Or you can buy 2 boxes of specially-marked Valentine's Day cards (E.g. Dollarama, Superstore, Walmart sell boxes for \$2-\$4.)

Religious & Cultural Holidays

- May be mentioned at school, but not generally celebrated as a whole school.
- Some parents make a special presentation to their children's classroom. You may talk to your child's teacher about this.

Birthdays: Tips!

- Kids' birthdays are mentioned every morning during school announcements.
- Teachers often lead their class in singing Bonne Fête (happy birthday) to the student.
- The school asks not to send treats to school for the whole class.
- Some families plan a birthday party outside of school hours and invite school friends.
- Invitations handed out about two weeks in advance. (Teachers may help if needed.)
- Invitations include: date, start & end time, location, your contact phone number, and ask about food allergies/dietary restrictions.

Watch for emails from
**École St. Avila for
parent council updates!**



Follow us on Instagram:

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