The Katimavik School Council had a very successful year in 2014-15 and was able to put more than $10,000 into school and community programs. There were many successful fundraisers including the book fair, school hot lunch programs and the ice rink. We also continue to encourage a community spirit between Katimavik and its sister school Castlefrank Elementary with joint book fairs, a very successful community festival and a joint parent meeting promoting further cooperation between the two school communities. The two Council Chairs continue to work together closely.

The school also weathered a mid-year change in Principal well with an excellent transition from the well-loved Wendy Jewell to the new face of Jeff Gervais. Council was involved in the transition and the school community has adjusted well. We are pleased to have Mr. Gervais at the head of our school community.

The School Council executive consisted of two co-chairs, Megan Venner and Sarah Cummings, Treasurer Claudette Nyenhuis, Secretary Teri MacDonald and OCASC representative Rene Poetker. The year got off to a rocky start with an inability to get quorum at our September meeting but hard work from existing council members attracted unusually high numbers to a special October meeting where we were able to establish a new council and hold elections. The council met in September (without quorum), October, November, January, February, April and May. The chair and the principal met regularly to ensure positive and ongoing communications with the parent community. Council stayed in touch with Katimavik families primarily through the school council blog (kesparentcouncil.edublogs.org) as well as through paper communications sent home with students and special events. Each meeting was attended by the Principal or Vice-Principal, usually both, a teacher representative and at least five council members (quorum) but usually more. Each meeting covered financial reporting, updates on spending and fundraising, updates from both the administration and teaching staff and offered an opportunity for parents to raise issues of concern.

Through our fundraising efforts we were able to enrich the lives of our students in many ways, including:

* More than $3,000 in new sports and fitness equipment
* More than $2,500 for library resources
* A successful staff appreciation lunch for our amazing educators
* Transition programming for incoming 2015 grade fours
* Grade 8 leaving ceremony
* An individual allowance for all staff members in order to provide extra resources they deemed appropriate or necessary
* Laminator supplies and a costly repair to the council owned and operated machine
* A Christmas elves project geared towards both student families in need and to the wider community
* Garden projects
* Music equipment
* Junior Math contest
* Intermediate Gauss and Pascal math contests
* Luv 2 Groove
* A volunteer maintained ice rink for the use of both the school and community
* Joint Castlefrank and Katimavik Schools Community Festival
* Track and Field Ribbons

School council was also vocal in the OSTA bell time review and was successful in preventing a bell time change that would have caused hardship for families with children at both Castlefrank and Katimivak Schools. Council also hosted a very successful evening for parents in support of the schools resiliency programming where parents were better able to understand the school’s philosophy of “I Can, I Have, I Am.”

Overall it was a successful year for the Katimavik School Council thanks to the time and commitment of our incredible parent volunteers. Katimavik Elementary School continues to be a wonderful school community.