



Westmount School Association

*Fostering cooperation between staff, parents, and guardians to support
educational activities and enhance a sense of community for
Westmount School families.*

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Executive Summary

This year the Westmount School Association (WSA) continued to build off its previous work in rebuilding community following the upheavals associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. We continued to run a variety of fundraising and community building events including our Spring Fair, Family Bingo Night, Family Skate Night, and two Family Movie Nights. One key change this year has been the end of the hot lunch programs due to the introduction of the Nova Scotia Hot Lunch Program. This program is a welcome addition to our province. It has, however, necessitated a shift in our approach to fundraising. The WSA continues to explore new fundraising opportunities, including our successful Golden Ticket Raffle.

This year saw the first full slate of Executive positions in several years. This change, along with many long-standing WSA members “graduating” to St. Agnes, has involved some learning opportunities as well as a better focus on improving the documentation of events to help with future planning and knowledge transfer to newer WSA members. Recruitment continues to be a challenge, particularly in finding members that reflect the diversity of the Westmount community. The following report outlines the fundraising and activities that were planned by the WSA members this past year. It also includes the financial statements and planning activities which will inform the WSA activities for the 2025/2026 school year.

Guiding Principles

- Support educational activities;
- Provide a forum for communication between the staff and parents/guardians;
- Facilitate school activities that enhance a sense of community for Westmount School families;
- Engage in advocacy activities that bring specific Westmount School concerns to the attention of decision makers;
- Initiate fundraising activities to help provide supplementary school equipment and supplies, educational opportunities, and extracurricular and social activities within the school and broader community.

Executive Members

2024 / 2025 Voting Members

Marisha Caswell, President

Laura Moeller, Vice President

Christa LeBlanc, Treasurer*

Megan Gray, Secretary

Marilee Sulewski, Past President

Tara Wight, Member at Large*

Vanessa Thomson, Member at Large*

Alex Smith, Member at Large*

Jenn Hanscomb, Member at Large*
Meredith Pike, Member at Large
Allana Mills, Member at Large*
Sarah-Lynn MacKenzie, Member at Large

Positions noted with an asterisk (*) indicate that those positions are up for renewal.

Annual Report

On behalf of the Westmount School Association (WSA), it is my pleasure to present the WSA Annual Report from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. The following community events and activities took place and are outlined in the following report.

Hot Lunch Program

2024-2025 saw the welcome introduction of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program. Regulations for this program meant that the WSA was no longer able to bring food into the school. This meant the end of the popular Dimitri's Pizza lunch delivery and Joan Lombardo's lunch program. The hot lunch programs have traditionally contributed significantly to the WSA's fundraising efforts, and this change has meant we need to think more about new fundraising opportunities.

Spring Fair

The WSA hosted its Spring Fair on May 25, 2024. The sun was shining for a busy and well-attended event. The event included all of the traditional games and activities including the silent auction, Sucker Pull, Pick Ur Nose, Spinning Wheel, Fishing, Golf, Hockey and Basketball, Henna and Facepainting. We also held a "Freezie Freeze" dance and the bouncy castles proved as popular as ever. In terms of food, we held a bake sale as well as popcorn and cotton candy machines. A BBQ served hotdogs, Halal burgers and veggie burgers. Special thanks to Erin Todd for all her work organizing the Spring Fair and for all of the volunteers for making the event such a success.

Micro Garden Fundraiser

In partnership with Bramble Hill Farm, the WSA hosted a micro garden fundraiser to support our school breakfast program and local farming. Participants could purchase a microgreen kit, which enabled them to grow pea, radish, and/or sunflower shoots at home.

Family Bingo Night

The Westmount Family Bingo night took place on November 28, 2025. The event was well attended by Westmount students and their families. The competition was fierce for the eight (8) prize baskets as well as the cash prize. The evening was emceed by Vicky and Jodie Terrio. Thank you to Vanessa for taking the lead in organizing the event as well as all the volunteers who assisted in making it happen.

Family Movie Nights

Building off the popularity of its first movie night in 2024, the WSA used its special film license (AudioCiné) to host two movie nights. We screened *Garfield* on October 24, 2024, and *Toy Story* on January 30, 2025. The event was free for all members of the Westmount community and attendees were invited to wear pyjamas and bring pillows, blankets, and stuffies for cuddling in the gymnasium. The WSA held a concession stand where we sold popcorn, candy, and drinks. Ring pops proved such a hit that one WSA volunteer had to do an emergency Ring-Pop run during the October event!

Golden Ticket

The WSA hosted a golden ticket fundraiser in January 2025. Members of the Westmount community were invited to purchase raffle tickets for the chance to win coveted front-row seats at the Winter Concerts. We sold 194 ballots for the P-3 concert and 117 ballots for the 3/4 – 6 concert, raising a total of **\$544**. Special thanks to Vanessa Thomson for running this fundraiser.

Family Skate

The annual Family Skate was held on March 26. It was a chilly night as families from across the Westmount community laced up and skated around the Oval. This event coincided with a week of significant student absences and was not as well attended as in previous years. This event also highlighted the need for us to provide multiple forms of communication about events to Westmount families.

Westmount Spirit Wear

Using the Nova Trophy online platform, the WSA offered families a chance to purchase Westmount apparel for the first time in several years. With additional funds available in the WSA account, there were multiple discussions about purchasing a t-shirt for every student at Westmount, but in the end the WSA decided to provide teachers with additional funds for classroom field trips.

Financial Statements

Treasurer's Report

The WSA Treasurer's Report dating from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 will be circulated separately.

Diversity and Inclusion

The WSA has made an effort over the past few years to highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion in our membership and our initiatives. We recognize the rich diversity of the school and believe that the school community is best represented by a WSA that reflects that diversity. As such, the WSA completes a diversity report on the school community at the beginning of the year so we can better understand who makes up our school community. During recruitment drives, we highlight the need for a more diverse WSA. The WSA works to reflect on the needs of our diverse community when we are organizing events and incorporate those ideas so that all feel welcome. We hope to include new events that directly reflect our school's diverse community in the future.

Westmount Staff & Family Surveys

Due to the low response rates for Staff & Family Surveys in 2024, the WSA made the decision to not run the surveys in 2025. We will revisit the surveys for 2026 as we look to develop our budget and priorities for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Next Steps

Over the course of the year, the WSA has identified the following improvements for consideration in the coming year:

- Engage with the school community to improve diversity and inclusion within the Executive Committee and future WSA activities.
- Continue to find opportunities to improve communication with the Westmount school community.
- Identify and plan community events and/or fundraising activities that support Westmount students in a safe manner.
- Identify additional fundraising efforts to continue to support Westmount students and staff.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Westmount School administration and staff for their hard work and commitment to our children's learning through this past year. Westmount staff continue to go above and beyond to find new ways of learning and to build community spirit for our children. Thank you to the Westmount school administration and staff for your continued efforts and leadership.

A special thank-you to the WSA members for their continued dedication and support. This year, we have welcomed new members to the group, improved communication with the Westmount families and tried new community events and activities. Throughout it all, everyone has remained engaged and dedicated to supporting the Westmount school community. Congratulations everyone on another successful year!