



(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, August 2011)

Dear QAA Parents,

The Parents Association (PA) extends a warm welcome to everyone. For our new families, we look forward to meeting you and sharing the QAA experience. To our returning families, the PA aims for the next year to be a positive and rejuvenating time for you and your daughters. The Parents Association does our best to help make this happen. Now, the PA President and V.P. also assume another role; it is one of working closely with the QAA Board, Principal, teachers and administration, the Foundation, and parents (as your voice) on the Strategic Planning Committee. As of July, 2011 the PA extends a warm welcome to Mrs. Mary Reynolds as our QAA Principal.

**About us:** The Parents Association is an Executive consisting of 15 parents that you select each May at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Everyone is invited to this AGM. The PA Executive **represents you**. On this Association we also have the Principal, a Teacher representative, and the Liaison Officer. The PA meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at QAA. You, as parents, are welcome to join us even if you are not on the Executive. Just let us know beforehand, so we have proper seating arrangements.

**Objectives of the PA:** Basically, our **mission** is 4- fold:

1) to **represent** the interests and concerns of QAA parents, 2) to **act as a link** of communication with the school, 3) to **sponsor** many school activities/awards and 4) to **fund** student, teacher, and staff Wish List items.

**Information re: our sponsorship:**

- a) The PA **organizes** and **hosts** an Annual Welcome BBQ for our new and returning families early in September. Information will be in your Welcome Package before school starts. The BBQ is a huge undertaking. Our QAA volunteers pitch in to make this fun for all QAA families, teachers and staff.
- b) The **PA funds** the Early Morning Supervision Program (students may arrive early at 7 am.)
- c) **Organizes/hosts** Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (they are the heart of QAA)
- d) **Sponsors** the Secondary 3 - Award of Excellence at Honor Roll evening & **hosts** the event.
- e) **Sponsors** the PA Spirit Award at Convocation
- f) **Sponsors** 1 or 2 student(s) to go to the Forum for Young Canadians (Ottawa).
- g) **Sponsors** Science Fair for Sec. 2 and 4
- h) **Sponsors** student transport to special events/field trips
- i) **Assesses new needs** by QAA (eg. **Cyber-bullying workshop** for Parents and students) in 2011/12.
- j) **Sponsors** a Speaker Series that offers student access to guest speakers with dynamic careers (held in a conference-like format as of March 2011).
- k) **Funds** hospitality for 2 info. Eve. for Sec.1 and Sec. 2-5



- l) In 2011, **sponsored and furnished** a lounge area in the Library, to allow students to work on group projects. The PA **allocates** roughly \$10 – 12,000 per year for Wish List requests. The PA goal is to enhance the QAA student experience. The PA helps QAA in many other subtle areas, eg. a \$5000 donation to the Breezeway entrance upgrade.

**Important to stress:** The PA offers all the above and more to QAA by holding only **ONE** fundraiser a year! This is the Fall Chocolate Drive. The Drive is “**vital**” for the PA to offer our sponsorship to the students and school. **Please** help our QAA students and the PA volunteers make this a success.

A PA tradition for Chocolate Drive is that **a)** Sec. 5 students receive a thank you Rugby Graduation Shirt for their effort throughout the five years **b)** top sellers receive gift incentives at December Assembly **c)** pizza lunch is provided for each year’s top selling class.

The Chocolate Drive (Cadbury’s) plus the Family Membership Fee is our **only** source of income. The PA volunteer parents work very hard to make this a great success... **please offer** your support in helping your daughters help us keep the campaign short and sweet. (See the long pink sheet in the student welcome package).

The PA has always had and still needs our QAA parent volunteers to help us. We count on you to consider offering us a little of your time, in any way you can. The PA **truly appreciates and thanks** the QAA parent community, for we are in this together. Parents getting involved sets an example for the students. It is key to helping students and parents know and enjoy the QAA school experience.

The PA is available for comments or suggestions. Contact us with questions, concerns, offerings of help etc. at 514-636-0900, ext. 448, or at [pa\\_info@myqaa.net](mailto:pa_info@myqaa.net). The QAA PA website is <http://www.myqaa.net/pa/>

We look forward to seeing you and we wish everyone a happy, successful school year!

Debra Barrie  
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#### **2011-2012 Parents Association Executive**

**Officers:** President - Debra Barrie, Vice-President – Cindy Woods, Treasurer – Darlene Innes, Secretary – Vera Turko-Kulycky ,

**Members:** Ayanna Alleyne - Cathy Alongi - Caroline Kennedy - Marissa Lane - Jacqueline Mallais – Cristina Molinari Farina – Kristen Pugsley –Cheryl Skean – Bessie Telfer – Garleen Tomney – Sonja Williams