

School Council Welcome Package

Clara Brenton Public School
(2025-2026)

Welcome Letter from the Chair

Dear School Council Members,

Welcome to the Clara Brenton School Council! Whether you're joining for the first time or returning for another term, we're thrilled to have you on board.

Our Council brings together parents, guardians, educators, students, and community partners who share a common goal: to enhance student achievement and well-being through meaningful parental engagement. We are an advisory body working alongside our principal and school leadership team to strengthen communication, equity, and collaboration across our school community.

Over the past few years, our Council has helped create a vibrant culture of participation through events like our *Investing in Children Literacy Nights*, *STEM Oakbotics Night*, and *Community Picnics*. Each initiative has one purpose: connecting families and enriching our students' educational experiences.

This year, we'll continue that momentum through the following key initiatives:

- *Community Clean-Up Night* – October 15, 2025
- *Family Literacy Night* – November 19, 2025
- *STEM Oakbotics Night* – February/March 2026
- *Community Picnic* – June 2026

Thank you for giving your time, energy, and heart to our school community. Together, we will continue making Clara Brenton a place where every child feels supported, engaged, and inspired to learn.

Warm regards,

Maria Ahmed

Maria Ahmed
Chair (2025-2026)
School Council
Clara Brenton Public School

Mission, Vision & Objectives

Vision

Enhancing student achievement through meaningful parental and community involvement.

Mission

To strengthen the bridge between home and school by:

- *Improving access* to information, resources, and opportunities for all families.
- *Increasing communication* between school and home.
- *Facilitating involvement* for all Clara Brenton community members.

Objectives

Ontario's Purpose for School Councils

As stated under Ontario Ministry of Education regulations, School Councils exist to:

“Improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. The School Council provides advice to the principal and, where appropriate, to the school board on any matter relating to the education of students and the operation of the school.”

At Clara Brenton, this means creating a welcoming forum where parent and student voices shape the direction of school activities and help align community priorities with learning goals.

Clare Brenton School Council Three-Year Goals (2024–2027)

Goal 1: Strengthen Parent Engagement and Accessibility

- Develop opportunities for parents to connect meaningfully with the school (events, surveys, volunteer opportunities).
- Use inclusive communication strategies (virtual meetings, translation services as needed, “Coffee Hour” to communicate with newcomer families).
- Establish the annual “School Council Newsletter” to communicate with families and survey to gather family feedback on needs and experiences.

Goal 2: Support Student Achievement and Well-being

- Collaborate with the school on literacy and numeracy initiatives.
- Facilitate events (e.g., STEM and literacy nights) that connect families to learning.
- Promote equity by ensuring all families can access and participate in school opportunities.

Goal 3: Build Community Partnerships and Belonging

- Continue initiatives that foster school-community connections (e.g., Clean-Up Night, partnerships with Oakridge Robotics, Investing in Children, SWIS Coffee Hour collaborations).
- Maintain visibility at school events (e.g., Kindergarten Open House, Meet the Teacher Night, etc.) and create opportunities for families to engage informally.
- Encourage student leadership through participation in School Council activities and event planning.

School Council Members (2025-2026)

Chair:

Maria Ahmed

Vice-Chair:

Stephanie Faria

Secretary:

Gabriela Barella Borges

Parent Members:

Naghmeh Farhangi

Param Puri

Mallory Deane

Crystal Harrison

Shelley Stack

Home & School Association Liaison:

Kirsten Brimmel

Community Representative:

Meryem Akcay — *Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Representative*

Teacher Representative:

Stephanie Lloyd

Vice-Principal:

Nga Le

Principal:

Jennifer Potts

Resources & Reading Materials

TVDSB and Parent Involvement Resources

- [**Thames Valley District School Board \(TVDSB\) School Council Handbook \(2024\)**](#)
Official Thames Valley DSB handbook detailing School Council roles, structure, elections, by-laws, and meeting expectations
- [**Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee \(TVPIC\) School Councils - Leadership Guide \(2019-2020\)**](#)
Comprehensive guide on School Council mandates, by-laws, best practices, and conflict resolution strategies

Clara Brenton Resources

- [**Clara Brenton School Council Annual Report \(2024–2025\)**](#)
Annual summary of our goals, activities, and outcomes for the school year (required to be submitted to TVDSB each September 30)
- [**Clara Brenton School Council Agendas & Minutes Archive**](#)
This page contains current and past meeting agendas and minutes, helping new members see our history and how we operate.

Additional Provincial Resources

- [**Ontario Ministry of Education School Councils: A Guide for Members \(2002\)**](#)
The foundational provincial document referenced by TVDSB and TVPIC for council governance and parent engagement.

*We look forward to another successful year
of collaboration and community-building
at Clara Brenton!*