



# MILLS HAVEN SCHOOL AND STUDENT ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY

## Dear Families of Mills Haven Elementary,

We would like to formally introduce ourselves. We are the Mills Haven School & Student Enhancement Society. We are our own society separate from the School Council and from the school itself. We are a team of parent volunteers who have the responsibility of enhancing the experience of all Mills Haven students and staff.

We have developed a quick FAQ to better help parents understand our purpose and how these efforts directly affect the school experience.

### FAQ

**Q: Is the fundraising society MHSSSES part of the school and school council?**

A: MHSSSES is a separate entity from Mills Haven Elementary and the School Council. This is a mandatory requirement because we take funds in.

**Q: Does the fundraising society hold paid positions?**

A: No, the society operate on a 100% volunteer basis and 100% funds go to the school and students.

**Q: Why is a fundraising society needed?**

A: We help provide the school and students an enhanced experience. We help fund activities, trips, and items for the school.

**Q: What types of items do you fundraise for?**

A: These needs change each year. We request a list of needs from the school and teachers. Last year 10 specialized drums were purchased for Mr Funke's music room. These drums allow students to develop performance skills such as playing, rhythm, and listening skills while learning about music from other cultures. In other years, projectors, speakers and outdoor equipment for recess activities.

**Q: What types of items do teachers ask for?**

A: Teachers often request additional classroom supplies such as new books, additional electronics for enhanced learning methods that are unique and fun for students. Teachers also request items for classroom incentives. For example, when your child has come home with a cool new squishy globe as a top reader, this is what we helped fund. An average of \$10/ student is budgeted for this.

**Q: What types of experiences does the fundraising society help support?**

A: Some of our annual initiatives would include artists in residence, this is where a artist would come in and facilitate an activity with a class in alignment with their current curriculum. Another activity that is funded by the MHSSSES is the annual Edmonton Symphony Orchestra field trip for grade 4 students. A student & school favorite is where St Nikolaustag comes to the school and brings the children a special holiday treat- usually an orange and kinder egg. It is likely that all of these experiences will become virtual this year.

**Q: Will the fundraising society require less funds due to Covid-19 this year?**

A: Each year fundraising is performed for the following school year. Which means although we are in the midst of a pandemic, we will require the same efforts and budget to ensure the same experiences for the school and students in 2021-2022.

**Q: Has Covid-19 affected this year's fundraising?**

A: Yes, it has had a huge impact because we have lost funds from the Hot Lunch and Milk programs both of which were successful fundraisers. We are also having to navigate towards Covid friendly options shifting us away from traditional fundraisers like bottle drives and in person social events.

**Q: Will we see more fundraisers than normal this year?**

A: In short, YES. Not only have we lost funds from our Hot Lunch and Milk programs we are tasked with a very special opportunity as Mills Haven is scheduled for a playground replacement in the summer of 2022. This requires an additional raise of 20K on top of our regular annual commitments. We are working to execute larger fundraising initiatives like a community Go Fund Me page to help support the playground. We are also working to create fundraisers of greater value for family's while being mindful to support local businesses.

**Q: Do I have to support every single fundraiser?**

A: Of course, we would love your support but also understand that is not always feasible. Feel free to engage in the initiatives you connect with the most. We are working hard to bring the best fundraiser we can and appreciate any support in helping enhance the kid's experience.

**Q: Can I opt out fundraising?**

A: It is solely the parent's choice to engage or not with any and all fundraising activities. We are introducing an option for parents to do a one-time donation in a denomination of choice, and you can also choose to volunteer time as a form of donating.

**Q: Who are the current members of the MHSSSES?**

A: Your current team of parent volunteers that make up the Mills Haven School and Student Enhancement Society:

President: Stacey  
mhssespresident@gmail.com

Vice President: Aida  
vicepresidentMHSSSES@gmail.com

Treasurer: Erika  
treasurer.millshaven@gmail.com

Communications: Monica  
MHVcommunications@gmail.com

Secretary: Erin  
MHSSSESSecretary@gmail.com

Div 1 Representative: Levi  
Div1repmhsses@gmail.com

Please Follow us on Social Media  
FB: Mills Haven Elementary- School Council  
IG: @Millshavenschoolcouncil

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or fundraising ideas you have. We look forward to a great year with you and continuing the creation of an enhanced experiences for all students of Mills Haven Elementary.

Sincerely,  
**the MHSSSES Team**