

Hello Le Phare families,

*To view this message on our website (in English), you can click here:*

<https://lepharees.ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=225070&pageId=37522898>

**We have important news to share. But if you don't read our whole message (that's fair, we get it), here are the 4 things you absolutely NEED to know:**

**#1:** Please RSVP for the Monster Mash this Friday so we can estimate how much food we need! <https://forms.gle/ACaYScYnJtD8Ldpx8>

**#2:** You can fill in our Family Survey to help us guide this year's priorities. <https://forms.gle/UX82ARLu88uk3Tn26>

**#3:** You can now order student lunches November through June. To order, login to your SchoolCashOnline account: <https://ocdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

We also updated our [website](#) and our "[How to order guide](#)" because some families had trouble ordering.

**#4:** The school is facing a significant financial gap, so the Council is ramping up our efforts. More information below...

**Financial gap:** We learned at our October Council meeting that our school is facing a large financial gap. The School's budget is in significant deficit.

**What does this mean?** This school will need to reduce spending, and this will affect its ability to pay for field trips, cultural or arts events, technology, or other resources outside of core school supplies. Le Phare's educators are as dedicated as ever to teaching our kids and they have the core resources they need. But the financial pressure will be noticed.

**How did this happen?** A mixture of factors, such as uncertainty in staffing during the pandemic and higher costs, complicated by Principal changes. Further, School Council used to raise up to \$40,000 per year – which dropped during and after Covid (under \$5,000).

**There is a plan.** Our Interim Principal Ms. Spearman has been very transparent, and we're grateful for her expertise. She's setting a plan to balance the budget over several years.

**How Council is starting to help:** This year we have 20+ parent Council Members who are as (or more!) engaged as before that horrible pandemic. Council is already:

- Sharing feedback with Superintendent Farrish and elected OCDSB Trustee Milburne.
- Providing input toward the new Principal's hiring profile. The OCDSB is currently running a hiring process for our new Principal, who will start in January.
- Considering if we can donate about \$5,000 right away to cover some costs from last year (such as Luv2Groove, the school mural and buses for outings).
- Exploring new fundraising, seeking donations from businesses, and applying for financial Grants. We set up a new main [Fundraising](#) page.

#### **TOP 10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP:**

1) Answer our Family Survey so we can spend money where you want us to. And you can view previous results [online](#).

**TAKE SURVEY:** <https://forms.gle/YKXFB5KUeGgg3GLm7>

2) Attend events! Fun is the goal. If there's also a neat way to raise funds, we'll try that too.

**Like the Monster Mash!** It starts at 5:30 on Friday. Bring cash money to buy food, tricks and treats! Please RSVP so we can estimate pizza sales. **RSVP FORM:**

<https://forms.gle/qrpVZLbFtR1EG5Lu8>

3) Donate your time. We rely on our strong volunteer network, including those behind the scenes who seek local donations, apply for grants, print posters, etc. Just [Email us!](#)

4) Buy stuff! We're registered with [Mabel's Labels](#) and [Fundscript](#) so when you buy, the school raises money. You can share these links with family, friends and coworkers too.

5) Order lunches! November-June sales are live. (If you had trouble ordering, you just need to log into your [School Cash](#) account to sync with the LunchBox system.)

#### **LUNCHES INFO:**

[https://lepharees.ocdsb.ca/school\\_council/activities\\_fundraising/lunches](https://lepharees.ocdsb.ca/school_council/activities_fundraising/lunches)

6) Donate money, if you can. You could also send the link to your family and friends. Feel free to request a charitable donation receipt.

DONATE: <https://event.auctria.com/6cf9616a-aaa4-40fa-b58c-21c06758b01c/>

7) Donate in-kind, with merchandise, gift cards or services for an upcoming auction. We'll display logos! You can [share our letter](#) with local businesses to seek donations.

8) Send our poster far and wide! Complete with QR code linking to the donation website.



9) Email us any time to learn more or share an idea. [SC-LePhareES@ocdsb.ca](mailto:SC-LePhareES@ocdsb.ca)

10) Get your kids involved! If they have an idea to raise funds during school time, their educators might be able to help. (Bake sales are a hit. Or a talent show?)

No matter what, your School Council remains grounded in our purpose – building community, supporting families and enriching learning for our kiddos!

And, ya know, hosting wild child costume parties, obviously.

Your spook-tacular friends,  
Le Phare School Council

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