

Parent Involvement

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Somersfield Parent Teacher Association (PTA) supports the school's philosophy, programmes and activities for the benefit of all Somersfield students. The PTA encourages and coordinates volunteerism and fosters a spirit of inclusion, partnership and cooperation within the entire school community.

The Somersfield PTA is run by an elected Executive Committee. These positions are elected annually at the general meeting of the members of the PTA no later than May 31st of each year.

The Somersfield Parent Teacher Association supports the mission of the Academy by:

- a) Organising and promoting volunteerism from the parent body
- b) Raising funds to provide facilities/programmes that are deemed necessary and would not otherwise be provided

The Somersfield PTA organises a number of social and fundraising events throughout the school year; the Back to School Barbeque, Parent/Teacher Social, the Spring Fair and Spring Raffle, the Budding Chef competition and the Eco-Shopping events to name a few. All of these events are not only fundraisers for our Parent Teacher Association but school community events that would not be possible without the support of our many volunteers.

At Somersfield, PTA events are sent out to parents via email, and posted on the school's website Blackboard, Facebook page, and on the Parent Relations Notice Board.

Parent Volunteers

Over the years, Somersfield has been fortunate to have had countless hours of support by volunteers from our parent body. The 'extra pair of hands' from volunteers is so valuable and contributes to the general welfare of the whole school community.

Children who see the impact of this kind of volunteering, benefit socially, emotionally, intellectually, and through increased self-worth.

Our reputation as a caring community and our children's welfare are both enhanced by the generosity of our parents who volunteer.

Parent Rights as a Volunteer at Somersfield Academy:

- To have volunteering experience that is personally fulfilling and fun.
- To be respected and recognised as a member of the school community, not just the volunteer group.
- To receive open and frequent communication about specific volunteer tasks and general school information.

Class Parents

Class parents are the coordinators of support in their children's classes. They help assist with the organisation of activities, school-wide events and provide classroom level support for teachers and facilitate a sense of community among the children's families. Class parents are an avenue for strengthening communication between the school and the families.

Teachers generally request the support of three parents (one from each age group) in the Children's House, and two parents in the Primary Division to help as Class parents. Class parents have a very important role and the school welcomes each volunteer's creativity and ideas while being sensitive to the teachers' decisions, space and time.

Class parents meet once per term with the Parent Relations Coordinator to make suggestions, discuss school-wide activities and share ideas.

The Class parent role is unique to each classroom, teacher and Class parent, but general responsibilities for this important role are as follows:

Why Volunteer?

- ☆ To learn about your school community
- ☆ To be a good role model for others
- ☆ To share personal experiences and unique talents
- ☆ To experience the satisfaction of helping someone
- ☆ To have an opportunity for personal growth
- ☆ To develop new skills
- ☆ To meet new people and make new friends
- ☆ To use time in a meaningful way

General Responsibilities:

- Meet with teacher once per term or as necessary. It is important to remember that the teachers vary in what they will want class parents to do
- Send an introductory email introducing yourself and your role as class parent including a request for information on any family customs and traditions that they would like to share with the class
- Organise special lunches (i.e. pot luck lunches after events, such as concerts etc.)
- *Organise parent donations for holiday and end of year gifts for classroom and specialist teachers
- Organise a class basket for the Spring Fair
- Organise outings/school trips and drivers for these trips
- Welcome any parent new to the class with a phone call during the school year
- Organise in-house craft days (approved by teacher)
- Assist with costumes for plays etc.

*It is important to note that participation in the appreciation gifts is voluntary; there is no set monetary amount, and these gifts are given on behalf of the whole class (regardless of participation).

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Somersfield parents have a strong track record of being involved in student life, and the school sincerely appreciates those parents who contribute time to volunteer, as that extra support greatly enhances our school programmes.

A few examples of our activities and events where parent support is welcomed and valued are the Readathon, Spring Fair, Service and Action projects, Office support, Friday Pizza Lunch, social events, photography for the school yearbook and other school publications, Parent Ambassadors for new parents, Library support, and listening to readers from Children's House and Lower Primary.

Parents interested in serving as a volunteer should contact the Parent Relations Coordinator, at parentrelations@somersfield.bm for more information or to sign up to work in a particular area.