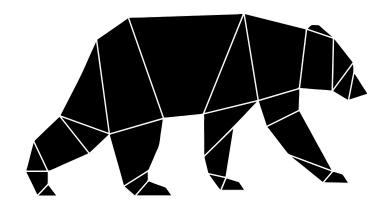
# Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School Family Handbook 2024–2025



61 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue St. Albert, Alberta T8N 0G5

> (780) 459-4467 samschool.spschools.org

Principal: Dawn Rothwell Assistant Principal: Cam Makovichuk







@SAM\_Elementary

@SAM School

@SAMSchool

# A Message from Dawn & Cam

Welcome to a new and exciting school year at SAM! We are thrilled to have each of you as part of our school family—our *SAMily*. Our school is not just a place for learning; it's a community where every student, parent, teacher, and staff member works together to create an environment filled with belonging, empathy, and mutual support.

At our school, we believe that everyone has something unique to contribute. Each student's strengths, ideas, and perspectives enrich our community. We encourage you to share your talents, ask questions, and help one another. Together, we can build a place where everyone feels valued and included.

Empathy is at the heart of our community. We teach and practice understanding and kindness, always considering how our actions affect others. By supporting each other, we create a safe and nurturing environment where everyone can thrive. Remember, a small act of kindness can make a big difference in someone's day.

We are committed to helping each other learn and grow. Learning is a journey we embark on together, and we celebrate each step forward, no matter how small. In our classrooms, on the playground, and beyond, we learn from our experiences and from each other. Your curiosity, effort, and cooperation make our school a place of endless possibilities.

We are so excited to see all the amazing things we will accomplish together this year. Thank you for being a part of our SAMily. Let's make the 2024–2025 school year full of discovery, kindness, and shared success!

Dawn Rothwell, Principal

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Cam Makovichuk, Assistant Principal

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## SAM Land Acknowledgement

**We** are grateful to live, work and play on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis. This land is a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route for many Indigenous people whose diverse cultures have enriched this land for generations.

We honour the Elders, Knowledge Keepers and other Indigenous voices who share their stories and wisdom with us as we work towards reconciliation in a good way.

**We** are treaty people and promise to work towards repairing relationships by showing kindness to each other and stepping gently on the land.

# **Our Story**

# Our Yesterday: Who we have been

Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School has been a vibrant neighbourhood school since 1958. SAM School has evolved with our surrounding community and has been "a home away from home" for generations of students. For 65 years, our hallways have been filled with the sounds of students, staff, and families laughing and learning alongside each other. You often hear staff speak of their SAM Family ("SAMily") with pride and it is observed everyday in every classroom. As a result, SAM has a reputation for being a safe, friendly, and welcoming community dedicated to meeting the **diverse learning needs of all our students**. Recognizing that we all have different ways of constructing understanding and connecting to learning, SAM has created spaces that value inclusivity, diversity, innovation, and leadership. SAM is a place where students and staff alike are seen as learners, teachers, and leaders, all having essential, reciprocal impacts on each other. Together, we can take risks in our learning because we have built a solid foundation of trust, respect, and relationship. As such, SAM has been, and will continue to be, a community school that prioritizes opportunities for students to **discover and explore their passions in learning** while becoming our learners and leaders of tomorrow.

### Our Today: Who we are now

At SAM, we continue to have a long standing tradition of both academic excellence and empowering our learners to lead. Today, SAM school continues to build upon a legacy of student driven leadership and we continue to recognize the importance of student voice and agency to create opportunities to learn what it means to be a leader and good community partner. Through participation in our Student Leadership Club, our students develop their leadership skills, build confidence in their abilities, and foster relationships with our community. Additionally, SAM continues to enrich student learning through varied curricular and extracurricular opportunities throughout the school, including our STEAM lab, Academic Challenge program, land-based learning experiences, as well as various collaborations with our Indigenous partners.

Connected to our strong culture of community and leadership, SAM has made recent commitments to reconciliation and equity in education. Taking the words of the Honourable Murray Sinclair to heart, "Reconciliation is about establishing a relationship of **mutual respect**," we are in the process of revisioning how we come together, plan together, and engage with each other. Through our growing relationships with our Indigenous communities, we start to understand a variety of viewpoints and ways of knowing that allow us to re-examine our pedagogical and assessment practices. Accompanied on our learning journey by Asiniwaciy, our

Ambearrister, we reconsider the ways we can teach with a recognition of diversity of histories, experiences, and learning needs within the classroom.

## Our Tomorrow: Who we might become

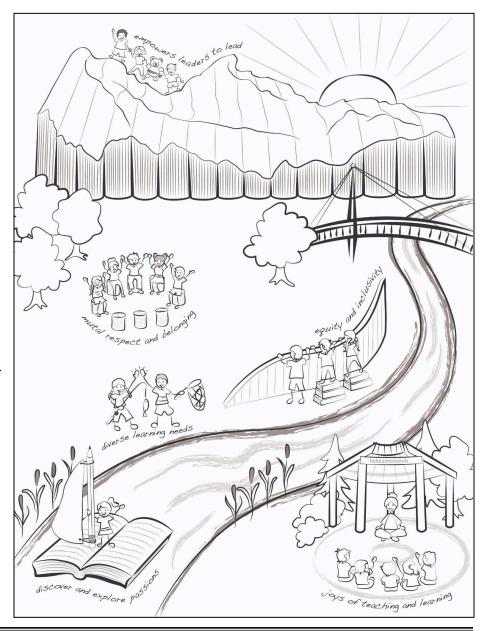
As the community around us changes, so do the learning needs and priorities of our SAM school community. As we move forward, SAM will continue to explore the different ways we teach and learn together using a variety of perspectives and lenses. To create more **equitable and inclusive learning opportunities** for our students, it will be important for us to consider: "Whose voices are missing from these experiences?", "What counts, what matters, what is most important for our young learners and leaders as they move beyond this point in time with us?" Families have shared that one of their primary reasons for choosing SAM has been the sense of

love and respect embracing all students, families, staff and visitors; as such, a central priority for SAM will be to continue engaging our whole community in the joys of teaching and learning.

## Our Living Map

Our Living Map at SAM School continues to guide us along our journey of learning and growing, reminding us of the values our community has voiced as central to their children's learning experiences.

(Artwork created by Amy Watson)



# Bell Schedule 2024-2025

# Mondays-Fridays

Period	Time
Morning Registration	8:40 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Period 1	8:45 a.m. to 9:17 a.m.
Period 2	9:17 a.m. to 9:49 a.m.
Period 3	9:49 a.m. to 10:21 a.m.
Period 4	10:21 a.m. to 10:53 a.m.
Period 5	10:53 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
Period 6	11:25 a.m. to 11:57 a.m.
First Recess	11:57 a.m. to 12:27 p.m.
Lunch	12:27 p.m. to 12:57 p.m.
Afternoon Registration	12:57 p.m. to 1:02 p.m.
Period 7	1:02 p.m. to 1:34 p.m.
Period 8	1:34 p.m. to 2:06 p.m.
Second Recess	2:06 p.m. to 2:21 p.m.
Period 9	2:21 p.m. to 2:53 p.m.
Period 10	2:53 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.
Dismissal	3:25 p.m.

## Early Dismissal (December 20th)

Period	Time
Morning Registration	8:40 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Period 1	8:45 a.m. to 9:19 a.m.
Period 2	9:19 a.m. to 9:52 a.m.
Period 3	9:52 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.
Recess	10:25 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.
Period 4	10:50 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.
Period 5	11:24 a.m. to 11:57 a.m.
Period 6	11:57 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dismissal	12:30 p.m.

No kindergarten classes on the December 20th early dismissal day

#### Kindergarten

Morning 8:40 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Afternoon 12:25 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. Full Day 8:40 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

All classes will schedule daily morning outdoor movement breaks according to their plans for the day.

# Our Commitments to Learning Together

Consideration for others, cooperation, and a sense of personal responsibility help us to work successfully together. At SAM, we have some shared commitments that we all hold ourselves, and each other, accountable:

- Respect yourself, your peers, your teachers, and the SAM School community.
- Meet your responsibilities—both as a student and as a good citizen.
- Do your best to make SAM School a well-respected place.
- Observe good safety practices and use them while travelling to and from school.
- Keep the building and grounds clean and tidy.

Every school has their own approach to discipline. At SAM School, we focus on using restorative practices that shift the focus of student discipline from punitive punishment to reflective learning using a community conferencing approach. These practices emphasize accountability, making amends, and facilitating dialogue between the affected individuals. Restorative practices and community conferencing work to repair harm done by:

- Helping students take responsibility
- Make students aware of consequences
- Teach students conflict resolution
- Build emotional skills
- Help students practise empathy
- Teach students to embrace forgiveness
- Show the importance of communication
- Build strong relationships
- Teach students how to respect different cultures and beliefs
- Help build community

At SAM School, collaboration and communication between students, teachers, and families is vital in this process.

## Other Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards and scooters to school? All of these items may be used to and from SAM School. Please wear appropriate helmets and lock bicycles securely in the school bike racks. For safety reasons, students are asked to dismount and not ride on school grounds from 8:30 a.m. – 3:40 p.m. SAM School is not responsible for damage to, or loss of, bicycles; students should ensure their equipment and belongings are secured with a lock. Other items should be brought into the school and stored in

homerooms or lockers until the end of the school day.

Can students use personal cell phones at school?

It is important to us at SAM to create an environment conducive to optimal learning; as such, personal cell phones are not permitted to be used on SAM School property (or on school outings) as they are distracting for all students. If a student needs to bring a cell phone to school, they will need to turn it off and check it in at the office (or keep it locked securely in their locker). We ask that students and parents contact each other through the school phone.

#### When are drop-off and pick-up times?

School supervision for children begins when the bell rings at 8:40 a.m. Please do not leave your children unsupervised at school before this time as there is limited staff supervision arranged for them. Similarly after dismissal, there is also limited playground supervision by school staff and it is important that families pick-up their children in a timely manner.

Can students leave SAM School grounds during the school day?

It is important that students stay on SAM School grounds throughout the school day from the moment they arrive in the morning until they leave school at the end of the day. Additionally,

- Parents or guardians must pick up their children at the office if they are to leave the school during the school day.
- Students must sign out in the school office when leaving early.
- Students are not otherwise permitted to leave the school grounds during lunch time.

#### Can I bring my own personal Chromebook?

Students are welcome to bring their own Chromebooks to school and use them under the direction and guidance of our teachers. At all times, students will be expected to follow our division's acceptable use of technology agreement, as well as follow our school's expectations regarding appropriate use of technology. Students who do choose to bring valuables (i.e. cameras, personal computers, or other electronics) to SAM School are responsible for their safety and care. Electronics that are not used for learning experiences in the classroom must be locked securely in students' lockers. The school does not take responsibility for any potential loss or damage to these items while they are at school.

# SAM School Programming

SAM School follows the Alberta Program of Studies which consists of eight subjects with objectives and goals set by Alberta Education:

- English Language Arts & Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

- Physical Education & Wellness
- Music
- Art
- French (Grades 4, 5 and 6)

SAM School is also excited to be able to complement our students' curricular learning with opportunities in Drama, Outdoor Education, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

## **SAM Explores**

To further enrich the learning experiences our students have at SAM School, we have introduced "SAM Explores" learning opportunities where students from K-6 will take part in rotating experiences in Drama, Outdoor Education, and STEAM.

- **Drama:** Students develop communication, creativity, empathy, and collaboration. Learning experiences in drama support and extend curricular outcomes in language arts, wellness and social studies.
- Outdoor Education: A connection to the land and people are key concepts emphasized in our Outdoor Education experiences. Students experience seasonal activities like snowshoeing, bouldering, forestry awareness, and understanding the basic survival skills of being outside.
- STEAM: Incorporating science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, students gain skills they need to solve complex problems and think creatively. They collaboratively engage with active, hands-on learning experiences allowing them to explore and understand the world around them.

# Academic Challenge & Enrichment (ACE) Program

The Academic Challenge and Enrichment (ACE) program offers in-depth explorations and extensions of the curriculum to help keep your gifted child engaged and motivated to reach further. The program offers unique learning opportunities that challenge your children and feed their curiosity and passion for knowledge and growth. Students who qualify for this program might exhibit such characteristics as:

- Demonstrating strong problem-solving ability, logical thinking, and creativity;
- Easily grasping underlying principles and need minimum explanation;
- Having exceptional curiosity and constantly want to know why; and
- Looking for leadership opportunities at school.

This Division Program (Grades 4-6) provides students with extended academic opportunities in research, independent and group projects, communication and decision-making skills. Students learn the regular curriculum and teachers supplement students' learning with enriching activities by expanding topics of interest. Science Olympics, extended field trips, project-based learning, performances, and use of integrated technology are a few highlights of the ACE Program.

The ACE program might be right for your child if they receive:

- A recommendation for current school administration and teacher, AND
- A full-scale IQ score of 120 or higher on a psychoeducational assessment.

#### Soccer Academy

SAM School is very excited to be the chosen host site of the division Soccer Academy for students in grades 4 - 6 in partnership with the St. Albert Soccer Association. Adopting a skill-centred model for player development, the Soccer Academy is open to students of all skill levels. In welcoming student-athletes who are passionate about athletics and soccer, the academy will provide an environment that will encourage respect, enthusiasm, confidence, cooperation and independence.

The academy will provide student-athletes with individual and small-group training along with a personalized development plan. For the younger ages, physical literacy will be incorporated with the ball to develop each player's agility, balance and coordination. Along with soccer training, the academy will introduce Futsal as a growing standalone game in our country and also a fantastic development tool for young soccer players. Student-athletes will also work with top youth development coaches, and be introduced to multiple sports and activities.

The monthly fee for the 2024-25 school year is \$150/month. This fee includes the training kit, field rentals, training equipment, field trips, supplementary coaching staff, as well as busing to and from the venues.

#### Co-Curricular & Extracurricular Activities

We are proud to offer many clubs and activities that are scheduled throughout the year for students. These will be communicated through student-created announcements and the SAM Paw Print (our digital newsletter).

There are many ways for students to become active at SAM School. We appreciate the generosity and cooperation of all SAM students who are willing to donate their time to make SAM School a better place! Check out some of the clubs and activities at SAM:

- Student Leadership Club (SLC)
- Running Club
- SAM Hockey League
- Handbell Choir
- SAM Chorus

- Climbing Club
- Ski & Snowboard Days
- Intramurals
- SAM Songsters
- Safe Space

#### Library Program and Services

All students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 have access to SAM School's extensive library and resources through our computer-based cataloguing system. Assistance is provided by a library technician. In addition to having regular opportunities to exchange books for recreational reading, students receive instruction in basic library skills and literary appreciation. Paired reading, volunteer tutoring, small group educational assistant support, and several cross-age activities are just a few highlights of the many activities that occur in SAM School's library every day. Book exchanges occur during scheduled library periods once per week.

# Special Events

Events are designed to promote school spirit and community:

The **Welcome BBQ/Meet the Staff Evening** occurs at the very beginning of the year and facilitates parents and staff meeting each other and for the parents to receive information regarding school programs and activities.

**School Hot Lunch Days** (offered by the SAM Fundraising Society) allow families to pre-purchase lunch for their children from different restaurants via Healthy Hunger. We always welcome more parental help!

**School Pictures** - Individual pictures are taken early in the school year. Class pictures are taken in the spring.

**Spirit Assemblies** - Each month at our SAM Spirit Assembly we will recognize the incredible contributions of our students, staff, and volunteers who help make SAM an amazing school to come to every day. The SAM SPIRIT Award is a monthly themed award where teachers choose two students from their class to recognize for demonstrating our SAM SPIRIT qualities.

**SAM C.A.R.E.S. Awards** - The SAM CARES Awards recognize students, teachers, or community members "caught doing good" or demonstrating qualities such as Cooperation, Adaptability, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-control. Each classroom has nomination cards that anyone can fill out to recognize a CARE quality in another person. These cards are placed in our SAM CARES Awards boxes. Every month, the nominees are celebrated at our SAM Spirit Assembly, where they are also entered into a draw to play Plinko for a chance to win SAM swag.

**Field Trips** - Learning experiences gained outside of school enhance classroom instruction. SAM School offers many educational field trips which are determined by teachers. Parents will be notified of all field trips, including the purpose, cost, and other requirements of the trip. Many presenters and artists are invited to perform at SAM School as well.

#### Home/School Communication

At SAM School we believe in strong communication between the school and the home. Teachers will provide timely and ongoing communication throughout the school year to families using a variety of methods. At the beginning of the year, your child's homeroom teacher will clearly outline when and how classroom information will be communicated to you. Additionally, please always feel free to reach out to your classroom teacher or the school using email or phone. Other ways we look to strengthen home-school communication includes:

**Progress Reports** assess and report student progress, and are a big part of academic success. A Division Report Card provides consistent descriptions of your child(ren)'s progress in relation to the Alberta curriculum. Achievement, work habits and effort are each reported separately. Report Cards are issued twice during the year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns about their progress.

**Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences** are set up on a school-wide basis and will occur twice during the year. Conferences can also be scheduled by contacting SAM School.

The **SAM Paw Print** is our bi-weekly electronic newsletter that is emailed to families on every second Friday afternoon. The SAM Explorer contains information on past and future activities, as well as articles of interest pertaining to educational issues, parenting information, fundraising initiatives, and other community events.

**Student Agendas** - Teachers often write notes to students or parents in student agendas or sign them, indicating that homework was recorded or completed correctly. We certainly encourage parents to do the same. Please use the Agenda as a two-way communication tool.

Our **SAM School website** has a variety of information for students and parents to access from home. Please visit our website at **samschool.spschools.org**.

**SAM Instagram, Facebook & Twitter** - Live updates are also provided via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Follow us at... ② @SAM Elementary **?** @SAMSchool X @SAMSchool

**Parent/Community Bulletin Board** - In the front entrance, we have a bulletin board dedicated to volunteers and community groups. Information about community extracurricular events will be displayed.

# School Support Team

In addition to our wonderful classroom teachers, we have a strong support structure in our school for students and families who may need additional assistance at times throughout the school year. If you have any questions related to your child's learning, we encourage you to reach

out directly to your child's teacher. In cases where you may need additional assistance, please connect with our School Support Team:

- Administration (Ms. Dawn Rothwell, principal; Mr. Cam Makovichuk, assistant principal).
- Learning Support Facilitator (LSF Mrs. Lise Classen)
- Health Recover Facilitator (HRF Ms. Sara Gossa)

#### Illness and Accidents

Normally, children who are too ill to go outside for recess are too ill to be at school. Our infirmary is intended for emergency use or unanticipated illnesses only. In the event of a serious accident to a student, the school will endeavour to contact the parents (or emergency contact) immediately. If this is not possible, the injured student will be transported to the hospital and parents will be contacted as soon as possible.

#### Medical Information

Please forward pertinent student medical information to the school. SAM School keeps a list of students with severe allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, etc. Parents' cooperation is necessary in keeping updated medical information on file.

## **Lunch Routines**

Students are expected to eat while seated in regular homerooms, respect their classroom rules, and must remain at school during lunch time. \$60.00 per student for the year works out to cost less than 35 cents per day! This enables other staff to lead extracurricular activities during lunchtime, while maximizing outdoor supervision at a minimal cost to parents. SAM students who stay for lunch are expected to remain on school grounds during the entire day.

# Allergy Awareness

At SAM School, we have several students who have severe allergies. We ask parents to refrain from sending any products with nut ingredients as they can cause severe reactions for those with allergies. Nut products could cause a very serious reaction for an allergic student. For treats to be shared at SAM School, please send allergy-aware products. If a student does bring nut products, please notify the homeroom teacher or the office for an alternate eating space. Thank you for helping us to make SAM School a safer place for all students.

#### Student Medication

School Board policy outlines staff responsibilities regarding the proper procedure for administering medication to students. If a student requires staff to assist with medication during the school day, parents must provide the medication (stored in the office) in the original labelled container with the division medication form filled out by your doctor. Severely allergic or asthmatic students should have their medication with them at all times.

# Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is a condition for success at SAM School and is addressed by law in Alberta's Education Act. Every child must attend school. Parents are asked to have children maintain regular attendance and help them take responsibility for any missed assignments.

Please inform us (email or phone call) if a student is going to be late or absent. Non-reported absences will be followed up by a phone call to parents. Students who arrive late are required to sign in at the office. Students leaving SAM School for any reason during school hours must sign out at the office.

Report absences: (780) 459-4467 or sam.spschools.org

#### Cold Weather Practice

Morning and afternoon recess provide breaks from regular school routines, fresh air and a release for excess energy. As outdoor breaks are very important for children, recess will normally be held indoors only when extreme weather exists. Any student who feels ill at any time while outdoors should report to a supervisor or to the office. During inclement conditions, a shortened outdoor period may occur with some recess time provided indoors. Students must dress appropriately for outdoor conditions!

## Student Dress

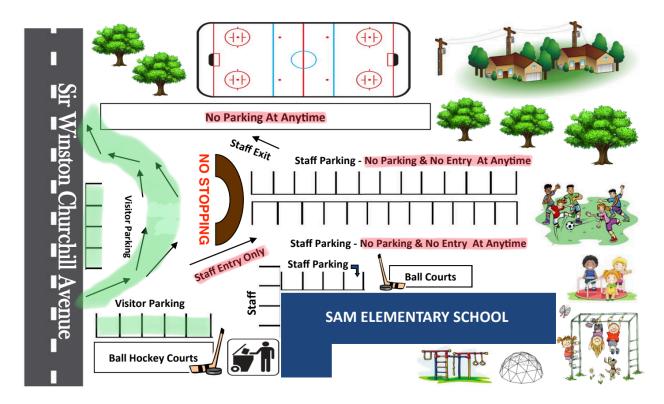
Students are expected to uphold the high standards of SAM School and community by not wearing clothing that may be offensive to others. Students are required to wear appropriate shoes at all times (non-marking soles, please for indoor use). Students are asked to remove outdoor footwear at their entry door and put their indoor shoes on. For emergency evacuations or fire drills, students will not have time to put shoes on. Physical education classes also require appropriate non-marking indoor shoes.

#### **Visitors**

Visitors must check in at the office and obtain a "Visitor" or "Volunteer" lanyard. Parents who bring lunches or class projects should leave them at the office and SAM staff will notify students at a convenient time; this procedures helps to reduce classroom interruptions.

# **Parking**

Children's safety in and around SAM School is paramount! At peak times, the parking lot becomes very congested with traffic and children. Please use the parking lot located southeast of SAM School as the main pick up or drop off point for students and to park for the day. Parents entering the main parking lot in front of the school are asked to please only park in visitor stalls. NO PARKING in front of barricades (flag poles). For student safety, please DO NOT enter the staff parking area. And in our efforts to continue positive relationships with our community neighbours, please DO NOT park at the nearby Braeside Presbyterian Church; they have a daycare and it is important that their parking lot is available to the staff and families attending there.



## SIGIS Child Care

SAM School's SIGIS Child Care provides both before and after school care and includes non-school days. For information, contact SIGIS directly at (780) 459-1333 or online at

sigischildcare.ca. Other day facilities and homes are available within our SAM community. Please check our Parent Information Bulletin Board or in the office for more information.

#### **Guidelines for Parent Volunteers**

Plain and simple, we LOVE parent volunteers! We could not do all the fantastic things that we do with children without the high level of parent volunteerism at SAM School. Keep up the great work! Please sign in at the office and obtain a "Volunteer" lanyard and sign a Confidentiality Undertaking & Declaration for Volunteers. This will only be required to complete once a year. Parents who volunteer regularly are asked to obtain and share a Criminal Record Check (usually no charge for volunteers) with SAM School administration.

Parents have a chance to play a larger role in education by volunteering at SAM School. Parents assisting teachers on a voluntary basis benefits all children and strengthens the ties between SAM School and the community. Volunteers can look forward to interesting and rewarding experiences while at the same time, learning first-hand about SAM School.

As important role models, we ask that all volunteers and visitors demonstrate mutual respect and follow a code of conduct. These elements are critical to the operation of SAM School:

- Respect the confidentiality of the teachers and the children.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please share them as soon as possible. We're here to help!
- Acceptance and understanding towards the children with whom you come into contact are essential as we work together to represent the best interests of all children.
- Take note of and become familiar with general school rules and procedures so that you are a positive role model for the students.
- Consistency is vital, but we know that emergencies do occur. If you might be absent or late for scheduled volunteering, please call the school office to let us know so that staff may make adjustments.
- Volunteers' attention is required by the students in that particular class or grade.
   Normally, we ask that younger siblings remain at home, under the care of another caregiver.

We will certainly call you if there has been a scheduling change or if you are not needed on a certain day. We hope that you will enjoy a very satisfying and rewarding experience. Children are certainly worth the extra effort. Thanks for volunteering!

# **Voluntary Parent Groups**

#### SAM School Council

Meetings occur in the evenings on a monthly basis. They provide opportunities for all parents and community members to:

- share information, ideas, concerns between the community and school,
- assist the school administration in an advisory capacity, and
- serve to facilitate the exchange of ideas and concerns between the community and the Board.

SAM School Council's Guiding Purpose Statement: As we work to support and enhance student learning at SAM, we will participate in the SAM School Council in an advisory role to the principal where we will foster, develop, maintain, and reflect the culture of the school. To do this, we will create forums for discussion, provide opportunities for families to participate, and, to the best of our abilities, represent our various school community views and voices.

## SAM Fundraising Society

Parent members provide services and raise funds to enhance learning and enrich the educational experiences of SAM School students. In addition to casinos, projects might include cupcakes, school-wide lunches, silent auctions, raffles, family dances, etc. Funds are raised and allocated to benefit the entire school population as opposed to individual classes or initiatives. Funds have been used to assist with the purchase of technology (computers, multimedia projectors, digital cameras, music and sound equipment), math and science manipulatives, physical education equipment, library materials, and playground items.

We absolutely LOVE our School Council and Fundraising volunteers, and need more!

Please consider volunteering—every little bit helps!

Finally, thank you! We know that you have a choice about where your child goes to school - and we appreciate that you have chosen SAM. We are grateful for the special place we have here, and it is made all the more amazing with you being a part of our learning community. Our collective efforts in the service of all children's growth helps to create a successful year of learning! Thanks for joining the SAMily!