

Step-by-step for using Shop and Support

Hopefully many of you attended the Curriculum Night at the school on September 13th and were able to browse over the brochure for Shop and Support and listen to the presentation and question and answer from our representative from that fund-raising organization.

The Parent Committee bought from Shop and Support in the school year 2006-2007 and are now introducing it to the parent body.

The benefit of this fund-raiser is that a percentage of every gift card purchased by you goes to the school- to support the school in their fundraising efforts. The very attractive benefit of this program is that it is probably the least intrusive in your lives- in other words, you need not buy chocolate bars, for example or spend a lot of extra effort to easily support the school financially. The gift cards available are from almost every retailer you can imagine, as well as cinemas and even WestJet! There is no downside to this, no hidden catches. It simply requires you, as parents, to plan ahead with your purchases and buy gift cards that you anticipate using (or giving as gifts) instead of using cash or credit at the time of purchase.

Here are the steps to start using Shop and Support:

1. Visit www.shopandsupport.ca or
(For a direct link with certain fields already completed-
https://secure.shopandsupport.ca/sascart/shopcart_content.aspx?gid=0100556615)
2. Click on “Support a Cause Now” (bottom right area)
3. Click on “Join now” (top left area)
4. Tab 1-“Registrant information”. You will be asked to set up your profile- name, password, then click on “continue”. Follow instructions.
5. Tab 2- “Contact information”. You need to enter an e-mail address. Follow instructions.
6. Tab 3- “Account information”. You will see Group ID:927239. In the empty box beside it- enter the school’s identification number: 0100556615 and click on “Verify Group” and “Toronto French Montessori School” should appear and confirm you have the correct id number.
 - Click on the box marked “I am the parent/guardian of a child belonging to this group” (don’t click this, if a grand-parent, god-parent, etc is filling it out).
7. Click on “I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of the program”
8. Click on “register”.
9. An e-mail will be sent to your e-mail with a link.
10. One of the most important steps is to either set up your online banking with Shop and Support as a payee or send in a cheque to Shop and Support for your purchases (they will not send gift cards unless payment is received).

A few important points:

- Planning is key- try to anticipate what you will be spending and where- only buy the cards you need.
- An easy, quick way to support this fund-raiser is to set up an “recurring purchase” with retailers. For example, typically you know that every week you go to Loblaws and gas up at Esso- make those automatic recurring debits. Then you don’t need to make the effort of going online to purchase cards. Keep it at small amounts in the beginning to get used to it. You can always increase it later.
- It is recommended to not use credit cards, as charges reduce the amount the school gets- be careful that credit card charges don’t outstrip the benefit to the school- only the credit card company benefits!

- Look for retailers and participants that pay the most- for example, Cineplex pays 5% whereas Costco only pays .50 for every \$100 bought.
- Ask friends and grand-parents, etc. to help your children's fund-raising effort- you can send them an "invite" to join and the funds will go to the school.
- For gift cards bought before 12noon on the Wednesday, the cards are delivered to the school on the following Monday. Ask the school reception about your cards.

Other schools have raised \$10,000 to \$20,000 in this manner! No one enjoys the time and effort required to fund-raise- let's make this a success and enjoy the benefits of the easiest way to earn funds with the least amount of effort and intrusiveness.

Thank you for your support!

Any questions can be directed to Natalie Hegarty and the Parent Committee.