



Lunchbox Delivers Efficiencies for Parent Advisory Council at Cedarvale Community School

For many years, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at Cedarvale Community School in Toronto, Ontario has managed the Kindergarten-to-Grade 8 school's lunch program. Organizing meals for the public school's 300 students involves PAC and parent volunteers coordinating orders, handling payments, managing vendors, addressing order issues, and distributing meals to students.

Over time, this extensive list of duties posed increased challenges for the volunteer-based group.

"Our volunteers used to run our lunch program manually for the most part," explained Samara Bleiwas, Parent Advisory Council Chair at Cedarvale Community School. "For example, reconciling funds meant photocopying all lunch orders and attaching them to each order, which was time-consuming and inefficient."

Volunteers also had to reconcile whether parents and guardians paid with physical cash or online, another pain point that made comparing and verifying records difficult. Other issues, such as delivering a high volume of orders into the school with specialty bags and managing cancellations and refunds, also put a strain on PAC and its volunteers.

Another challenge arose during the COVID pandemic in winter 2022: parent volunteers

were temporarily restricted from entering the school due to local public health guidelines; this accelerated the need for a new approach to managing their lunch program.

Lunchbox—a full service, online ordering solution offered by KEV Group—was identified by Cedarvale as the ideal solution to address its needs. Working closely with a Lunchbox Program Manager, Cedarvale implemented the 3-day program in March 2022. Now, parents and guardians in the Cedarvale school community order and pay for their children's meals online.

"We chose LunchBox because it frees up time and reduces stress for our PAC and parent volunteers who generously donate their time to the school," said Ms. Bleiwas.

ABOUT CEDARVALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Cedarvale Community School is located in the Cedarvale Community of Toronto, ON. The kindergarten-to-Grade 8 school is responsible for educating 300 students with a mission to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people dedicated to achieving to their fullest potential.

“It allows them to refocus their energy on other initiatives that benefit the school.”

After parents place their orders, vendors prepare the meals, organize them for school-level distribution, and then deliver lunches directly to Cedarvale. Lunchbox manages payment processing and handles any potential issues or order-related issues.

“We love how seamless and easy Lunchbox makes managing our lunch fundraising program for our PAC and volunteers,” said Ms. Bleiwas. “The Lunchbox team sends us a detailed delivery report of lunch orders at the beginning of each week and the food arrives organized by classroom and labelled by student order.”

Implementing Lunchbox also allowed the school to restart their lunch program sooner while visitor restrictions were still in place during the pandemic. It has also eased the burden for PAC and parent volunteers by automating the majority of tasks and responsibilities

“Because Lunchbox is a full-service program, significantly fewer parent volunteers are needed,” explained Ms. Bleiwas. “Food is delivered ready-to-go to the school by the vendor which means that volunteers spend 10 minutes organizing the food versus the 30 minutes that was spent previously. But the biggest time-savings for our PAC was the elimination of the 3+ hours we used to spend setting up weekly food orders in their system.”

In addition to eliminating manual tasks, Lunchbox has automated the fundraising component of the school’s lunch program. On every meal purchase, a pre-determined fundraising contribution is added and donated directly back to the school. Each month, Lunchbox sends Cedarvale a statement detailing the number of orders delivered and the fundraising totals which are paid by direct deposit.

As well, parent volunteers no longer need

to manually count lunch money or calculate fundraising amounts. Instead, they can invest their time on other initiatives to raise money for The Cedarvale Wish List—an ongoing fundraiser to make investments identified by teachers ‘to enrich and embolden their classrooms and the school as a whole’. This includes items such as student laptops and iPads, art supplies, and gym equipment.

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Cedarvale Community School At A Glance



Average Monthly Fundraising Total

\$565



Average Number of Monthly Orders

590



Number of Students

300



**Simplify your lunch program.
Boost your fundraising.**

If you're interested in learning more about the program, watch this on-demand webinar.

[Watch the Webinar →](#)

How to Sign Up Your School

Registering for Lunchbox is quick and easy. Simply complete the sign up form and a Program Manager will be in touch to review your details and confirm next steps. From there, our team will coordinate your vendors, set up the school's ordering calendar, and provide marketing support to promote the program to parents/guardians.

[Sign Up My School →](#)

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— **Samara Bleiwas**

Parent Advisory Council Chair, Cedarvale Community School



Lunchbox is a full-service online ordering solution that simplifies a school's lunch fundraising program. The entire program is managed by the Lunchbox team, saving school staff or parent volunteers 5+ hours/week to focus on higher-value activities. Schools earn fundraising dollars for every item sold and parents benefit from an easy-to-use, secure ordering and payment platform. To learn more, visit your-lunch-box.ca.