



## Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

### *ParentSpeak*

(Council's monthly newsletter)

www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com

E-mail: parentspeak@gmail.com

December 2009

The next Council meeting is: **Tuesday December 8 at 7 pm** in the school library.

#### Note from Hopewell Council Chair

As you may have seen in the local papers, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board is considering some major changes to its educational policies and the school system itself. In fact, our District 9 Board Member, Rob Campbell, has advised Council that this year will be one of studying and debating these changes, and next year - 2010/2011 - will be a year of implementing the decisions made.

To Council, this means that we as members of the Hopewell Community need to do some serious thinking and discussion this year around a fundamental question:

**“What kind of a school do we want Hopewell to be?”**

When we as Council members recently gathered to consider this question, we quickly gravitated to the idea of “a community school” as a core principle. But this quickly raised other questions, such as the very definition of ‘community school’: Does this mean filling our school population from the immediate area only?

What educational programs does our view of a community school include? For example, we are one of the few K-8 schools in the Board to offer an MFI program that stretches from Grade

4 through 8. Do we value that program enough to keep it - even if it attracts enough students to put us over Hopewell's capacity?

If we are at capacity - and we are approx. 120 students OVER capacity now - are we willing to let some programs go to reduce population? The physical realities of our school are challenging: very limited space, both inside and outside. We have little room for athletics, no cafeteria, and little common gathering space. How do we make the best use of our space for the optimum educational experience for our children?

All of these questions - and many more related ones - need to be thought through and debated, so that we can then convey our views to the Board, as they debate the policy changes that will affect us all. **We need your input.** As your representatives, we would like to hear from you - both in our monthly Council meetings, and through our website's new online discussion forum at <http://hopewellschoolcouncil.com/forum/> We have lots of great minds in our community. Let's put them together to build the best Hopewell for our kids' future.

*-Neal Hill*

Hopewell Council Chair, 2009/10

## Discussion Forum on Council Website

<http://hopewellschoolcouncil.com/forum/>

The Hopewell Council website now has a discussion forum where you can post comments and discuss topics. You will need to register to participate on this forum by creating a user name and password. We hope this will stimulate dialogue among parents on a variety of topics. Happy Chatting!  
(Thank you to parent volunteer Ryan Iler for creating the discussion forum.)

## Text Book Resources

Council has asked the Administration for a gap analysis regarding text books that the students use. There are text book shortages in a number of classes and Council would like to understand how it can help resolve this issue. For more information email [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com).

## Ski and Skate Sale

Thank you to all those who participated at the Ski and Skate Sale. It was a great success and we sold \$1,834 worth of equipment and many people are now ready to enjoy winter activities. We could not have done it without an amazing team of dedicated volunteers which included: Jenni Tipper, Jaynie Stephenson, Sarah Reid, Lori Camilucci, Sara Adam, Michele Sprott, Judy Calder and her husband Bernie, Nicola Maule, Karen Goodrich, Cynthia Grant, Caroline Clark, Tamara McCall, Nathalie Rundle, Jennifer Rae-Brown, and Nicola Katz.

## Grocery Coupon Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who participated in the grocery coupon fundraiser and a big MERCI to parent volunteers Denise Inglis and Marie-Claude Savoie for running it. Together we raised \$1,393 for the school which means \$27,850 worth of grocery cards were sold.

## Grass Yard Committee

Council has formed a Grass Yard Committee which is headed up by parents John Loop, Karen Goodrich and Rob Caplan and Vice Principal Kim MacDonald. They are determined to improve the school's physical space for the students. This project will take a few years and it will need a multi-year funding model.

## Hopewell's 100<sup>th</sup> Year

Celebratory events are currently underway. There will be a primary musical on December 17 lead by a retired Hopewell music teacher- Alison Woyiwada. A time machine has been created, and an opening ceremony is being planned for the New Year. Each month a Hopewell alumnus will prepare a brief description of their time at Hopewell which will be read out over the PA system for all students to enjoy. If you know of a Hopewell alumnus who would like to share their story please email [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com).

## \*\*\*NEW Subway Lunch Fridays in 2010

No need to make lunches anymore on Fridays! Council is organizing for Subway sandwiches to be served on non-pizza Fridays starting in January. Six inch and 12 inch subs will be available to order with a choice of several fillings. Watch for the pizza and sub order forms in December.

## Intermediate Lunch Clubs

A variety of new lunch clubs sponsored by Council will be up and running in December for the grade 7s and 8s. They include:

1. Knitting Club led by parent volunteer Kelly Harrison.
2. Technology Club run by parent volunteer Rob Casey. In December and next term Rob will lead a video

multimedia course on Mondays. The goal of the class will be to teach students some basic skills reference digital photography (still or video), lighting and sound, and movie editing. The end goal would be for students to create a digital movie that contributes to the Hopewell 100th anniversary.

3. Writer's Workshop led by parent volunteer Mike Stewart.

If you have an interest you would like to share your talents with the students through a lunch club, which would run between 1pm and 1:50pm once a week for four weeks, please email [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com)

### Cross-Country Skiing

Council approved \$1900 for the annual grade five cross-country skate ski program which be held in the winter term. Every student will attend a two hour skate ski session at Mooney's Bay taught by qualified XC Ski Fast instructors. All equipment will be provided. Thank you to parent Ian Winter for organizing this year's XC ski program.

### Vacant Council Positions 2009/10

Council is still looking for people who would like to fill the following positions on Council:

- Junior Core English Rep
- OCASC Rep
- Intermediate Gifted Rep

New Special Needs Rep: Rob Henderson  
New MFI Rep: Ian Winter

If you are interested in taking on one of the vacant Council positions, please email Neal Hill at [Nhill55@gmail.com](mailto:Nhill55@gmail.com)

**Anyone can join Council as a Member at Large at any time.**

### Allergy Update

On behalf of children with food allergies at Hopewell (and their parents), the Hopewell Allergy Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and parents for their continued support and assistance throughout the year in keeping foods containing nuts and peanuts out of Hopewell.

As you know, severe life-threatening food allergies are medical conditions that cause serious and acute reactions to specific foods (anaphylaxis). By not sending peanut/nut products to school you have made a huge contribution to the safety of food allergic children. As we approach the holidays, we ask for your continued vigilance with regard to ingredients in food and treats sent in to school, and remind you to check with your child's teacher for any other food allergies in their classroom, if you send in food to share.

The allergy committee is planning a get together at our neighbourhood **Bridgehead from 7 pm - 8:30 pm on Dec. 10**, as an opportunity for parents to connect in an informal setting. If you care for a child with allergies, or have an interest in how allergies affect our school, please drop by for a coffee.

As always, if you are interested in more information regarding food allergies or are interested in working with the allergy committee in any capacity, please feel free to contact us at [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com).

We would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season, and thanks again.

Hopewell Allergy Committee,  
Karen Goodrich & Alison Fines, Co-chairs.

### Primary Musical **The King Who Cancelled Christmas**

This musical will be performed for friends and family on Thursday December 17 at 7:00 pm  
**We are looking for your help!**

Any parents who are willing to help with the set up for the primary musical and are available during the late morning or early afternoon of Dec 16th, please get in touch with Allison Woyiwada at [allison.w@bellnet.ca](mailto:allison.w@bellnet.ca).

For a description of the costumes required please visit the Hopewell School website at <http://www.hopewellaveps.ocdsb.ca/parent-information/TheKingWhoCanceledChristmasCostumeDescriptions.pdf>

### **PD DAY Movie at Mayfair Theatre**

The Mayfair Theatre will be showing The Grinch on December 4 at 1 pm.

### **Dates to Remember**

**Council Meeting:** December 8 at 7 pm  
**Allergy Meeting:** December 10 at 7 pm  
**PD Day:** December 4  
**Pizza Lunch:** December 10  
**Primary Concert:** December 17 at 7 pm