



## Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

### *ParentSpeak*

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February 2009

The next Council meeting is on March 10 at 7 pm in the school library.

#### Balanced School Day at March Council

The Hopewell Administration is investigating the option of introducing the "Balanced School Day" at Hopewell.

The Balanced School Day is an organizational change within the regular school day that allows for fewer transitions for students, increased learning time and balanced nutrition breaks.

During the Balanced School day there are:

- 3 x 100 minute blocks of teaching time.
- 2 x 45-50 minute breaks: 20 minutes to eat and 30 minutes to play (instead of a lunch break and two recess breaks).

The breaks would occur at approx. 10:45am and 1:10pm. Students who normally go home for lunch would do so in the second break.

The intention of the Balanced School Day is to improve the learning environment in the school by balancing instruction/activity/nutrition for the students. Many schools in the Board have implemented the Balanced School Day and one of the benefits realized is that less time is lost in transitions, as the students only have to dress twice to go outside.

Come out to the March council meeting and learn more about the Balanced School Day and bring your QUESTIONS??? See [www.OCASC.ca](http://www.OCASC.ca) for other views on this.

#### Update on School Board Proposals

It has been decided that the grade 7 & 8 gifted classes from Hopewell and grade 5 & 6 gifted classes from First Ave. School will not be moved for the 2009/2010 school year.



#### Shop Local Fundraiser

The Hopewell Public School Council has approved the launch of a new community-based fundraiser that will raise funds for the school and support local businesses in Old Ottawa South at the same time.

On February 19 a coupon book with over 40 businesses "between the bridges" was sent home with your child. We are asking students to sell the book to friends, family or neighbours and return \$20.00 to the school by **March 3**. Additional coupon books are available upon order.

Half the price of the coupon books will go to the school. Monies raised will facilitate a number of Council-based school activities, such as purchasing learning resources and enrichment activities.

**Thank you for supporting this Hopewell Avenue School Council Fundraiser.**

## Council's Focus Until June 2009:

At the February Council meeting the attendees participated in a visioning session to determine where Council wanted to focus its energies for the rest of the school year. Below is a list of priority areas Council came up with:

1. **Playground:** Move forward on the structural improvements to the grass yard and purchase toys to be used outside at recess.
2. **Vision for the School:** Form a sub-committee to come up with a position for Council on the programs the school should be offering and how to manage the school's growth.
3. **Traffic Issues:** Devise a better traffic management plan on Hopewell Ave. and ensure the new proposed parking rules to accommodate customers at the new Shopper's at Bank and Sunnyside do not pose a hazard to our students.
4. **Safe and Caring School:** Help promote character education messaging to the students i.e. respect, honesty, trust, anti-bullying etc.
5. **Teacher Resources:** Purchase teaching aides and resources ie. books and manipulatives.
6. **Enrichment Activities:** Expose our children to new ideas and experiences by supporting school visits from interesting guest speakers, musicians, and drama troupes. Promote participation in sport activities and lunch clubs.

**If you would like to get involved in any of these initiatives, please email [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com)**

## New Special Education Rep on Council

Hopewell Parent, Janet Jull, is the newly appointed Special Education Representative on Council. Parents with concerns or issues that they would like to have brought forward to Council, or those who would like to talk in confidence with Janet about their experiences with special needs programming, are invited to contact her at [janetjull@hotmail.com](mailto:janetjull@hotmail.com).

As the role has not been filled for a few years, Janet welcomes input from other parents as to how best she could assist in negotiating the special needs programming at Hopewell School.

## Safe and Caring Schools Update

The Safe and Caring School committee is exploring ways to increase positive recess activities for the students. They are looking at introducing the Amigos Program (student mentors in the yard) and bringing in counselors from the Firehall to teach the children a variety of playground games.

Coming soon...the committee is putting together a list of electronic items students can bring to school and those that must be left at home.

## Lunch Clubs

Council is looking for volunteers who would like to run a club for students during lunch hour in the spring term. Possible club ideas include: **creative writing, drawing, environment, drumming, chess, knitting, yoga etc.** If you have an idea for a lunch club or if you are interested in leading a club, please email [parentspeak@gmail.com](mailto:parentspeak@gmail.com).

## Technology Committee Update

It is important to talk to our children about how to use the internet and technology safely. If you are looking for information on this topic, visit [www.wiredsafety.org](http://www.wiredsafety.org) as it is the world's largest internet safety, help and education resource. From this site you can learn about cell phone safety, chat room safety, instant messaging, and email safety.



## Dates to Remember

Pizza Lunch:	March 6
Council Meeting:	March 10
March Break:	March 16-20