



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com

E-mail: parentspeak@gmail.com

January 2009

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

EQAO Update at January Council

Over the past three years, Hopewell's EQAO (Educational Quality Accountability Office) scores for Grades 3 & 6 have either plateaued or declined slightly which has resulted in Hopewell being designated an OFIP (Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership) school.

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, is supporting Hopewell through professional learning opportunities for Hopewell's teachers with the goal of improving student achievement in the area of literacy acquisition. The focus of the OFIP project will be to support our teachers through professional development sessions in the classroom, concentrating specifically in the area(s) of reading and writing (Kindergarten through to Grade 8).

The Ministry has identified Hopewell's resource room as being weak and to improve it specialized books need to be added to the resource room's collection.

Update on School Board Proposals

On January 14 there was a public consultation on the proposal that would move the grade 7 & 8 gifted classes from Hopewell and grade 5 & 6 gifted classes from First Ave. School to Fisher Park School (currently a grade 7 and 8 school only). A final decision will be made by the School Board on February 24. This would mean about 50 students would leave Hopewell in the 2009/2010 school year and would help to alleviate some of the overcrowding issues in the school. For a copy of the January 14 presentation visit:
http://www.ocdsb.ca/au_hi_Program_Reviews.asp



Shop Local Fundraiser

Council approved the launch of a new community-based fundraiser that could potentially produce a good financial return and show support to our local businesses, which have been very supportive of the school. The Old Ottawa South Shop Local initiative has put together a coupon book with 40 businesses "between the bridges" participating. The students will sell this coupon book in February for \$20 and \$10 from each book will go to support Council's initiatives.

Space Camp Fundraising Update

The grade six students would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising initiatives this fall/winter. A total of \$6,400 was raised from the water bottle sales, a bottle drive, the Christmas wreaths sale, the Kaleidoscope Book sale, the Christmas card sale, and the Kids Craft Market.

Wishing you a blast of a trip!



Council's Budget Allocations:

At the January Council meeting spending was approved for the following items:

1. **Divisional Enrichment Fund \$6000:** The Primary, Junior and Intermediate divisions will each receive \$2000 for enrichment activities such as cultural performances and science workshops that help to support the curriculum.
2. **Space Camp Subsidy \$1500:** This spending fulfills Council's commitment to provide a \$100 subsidy for every grade 6 student attending Space Camp in 2009.
3. **Council Operating Budget \$1500:** This allocation covers the administration costs of Council's activities for the 2008/2009 school year.
4. **York St. Public School \$500:** This allocation will help support basic needs at this beacon school.

Technology Committee Update

We had a very positive response to our call for parent volunteers with expertise in technology. Hopewell teacher Kathy Manser will match teacher requests for assistance with technology to the generous offers of assistance we have received from our parent community. Thanks to all those who have volunteered.

How to Support your Child's Reading

Download video podcasts for parents that demonstrate ways of supporting your child's reading. Topics include: Bedtime Reading and Literacy on the Fridge.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/>



Dates to Remember

Pizza Lunch: February 6 and 20
PD Day: February 13