



ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

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April 2010

The next Council meeting is: **Tuesday April 13th at 7 pm** in the school library.

Chair's Column:

Have you watched your kids lately as they interact with electronic information? Even if it's an educational show of some sort, you'll probably notice that the material is coming at them at high speed, often with multiple types and streams of content on the screen at once. And if your kids play video games or do homework on the computer, watching over their shoulders can be outright disconcerting, as they seem able to process many different inputs at once, reacting to the rapid, dense flow of information almost instantly and completely.

What you're seeing there is what Toronto author and futurist Don Tapscott calls "the digital natives:" our kids, who have grown up with this fast-moving, multiple-stream information model as their assumed way of interacting with the world around them. We, on the other hand (at least those of us who were born before 1980 . . .), are "digital immigrants:" we had to learn our way into this style of consuming information . . . and it's not always natural or even comfortable for us. Speaking for myself, my 8-year old, Julian, is now giving me advice on how to "beat the next level" on even the simplest of video games - and I had always prided myself on being pretty tech-savvy!

This reality has major implications for how our children learn, and it poses major challenges for the educational environment they learn in. If we require them to step back into the traditional, static, single-stream communications model when they walk through the door of the classroom, I believe we risk losing their attention and

enthusiasm for learning. But of course the answer is not to throw open the doors completely to the cacophony and disinformation of the Internet, either.

Mme. Nicole Turpin, Hopewell's Principal, is keenly focused on this issue, and has been working closely with the School Board and Hopewell Council to make our school a leader in finding the right balance for integrating the new communication technologies and learning models into the school curriculum. The goal here is NOT "technology for technology's sake," but to apply the new technologies in ways which enhance and deepen our kids' learning experience.

Please share your thoughts with us on this issue; tell us how you think we can best proceed in modernizing our schools to engage our kids in learning in this new paradigm. A discussion page has been created on the Hopewell Forum page found at:

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

- we look forward to hearing from you!

-Neal Hill

Internet Safety Presentation

In early March Hopewell's School Resource Officer from the Ottawa Police came in to talk to the students in grade 5, 6, 7, and 8. They discussed bullying, cyber bullying, internet safety, texting etiquette and the intermediates also discussed sexting. For more information on these topics please visit www.texted.ca.

Committee Updates

Council Budget Update

The school administration recently bought two computer projectors, media carts and two Elmo projectors with money provided by Council. The school now has 7 projectors and 5 Elmos.

Council approved:

- \$1500 towards a grade 7 National Gallery trip that includes art workshops.

Beach Party Update:

- The March 4 Beach Party raised \$1400.

Fundraising Committee Update

Grocery Coupon Fundraiser: The spring edition of the Grocery Coupon Fundraiser will begin in April. Forms will be sent home with the students on April 8 and the completed forms and cheques will need to be returned to the school by **April 15**.

Hopewell 100 Committee Update

A full week of celebratory activities is planned for May 17 to 20, including the much anticipated Junior and Intermediate concert and lots of birthday cake! There will be a wine and cheese event for Alumni, parents, staff and special guest of the official opening ceremony on May 17 from 4pm to 6pm. If you know any alumni who would like to attend this event, please ask them to email parentspeak@gmail.com.

Education & Policy Issues Committee Update

Traffic Study: Council member, Geoff Hall, is now a member of the City's Transportation Committee that is looking at traffic calming measures for Hopewell Ave. as part of a much larger study focusing on the area around Sunnyside Avenue. Possible options for the street range from narrowing the street to closing the street to making it one way.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Separate School Board receives approx. \$250 more per student than public schools. Our School Board is trying to raise awareness regarding this

discrepancy in order to have the funding formula adjusted for public schools.

Grassyard Committee Update

The Grassyard committee is undertaking the following initiatives:

- Tree planting for the Hopewell 100 celebration.
- Signed Hopewell school up for the City of Ottawa's "Adopt a street" program. Students will take part in cleaning up the block and will be provided with garbage bags and 5 yards of mulch.
- The school's landscape plan will soon be ready to be unveiled. Comments on the plan will be gathered from students, teachers and the community.

Roll into Spring with the Hopewell Ave. Public School Bike Sale!

April 16th and 17th

Hopewell Public School parking garage



If it's got wheels, we'll sell it for you. Bring us your bikes, in-line skates, scooters, strollers and anything else that rolls with accompanying gear. Volunteers will help price it, tag it and prepare it for sale the following morning. Vendors may recoup 75% of the sale price. The remaining 25% will be used to help support local educational objectives.

Equipment Intake: 5:30-8:00pm, Friday, April 16th

Sale: 9-11am, Saturday, April 17th.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event, please email

jaynie_stephenson@yahoo.com

Glebe High School Presentation

The Parent Council of Glebe High School is inviting Hopewell Parents to attend a presentation on:
Teens, Mental Health and Well-Being

When: April 15 from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Where: Glebe Collegiate Library (lower level, northwest corner) 212 Glebe Avenue

Come and learn more about the pressures teens face and sources of information and help for teens and families.

Registration is required!

The session is free but registration by April 12 is required. Please register with Barb Winthrop at bwgrace10@hotmail.com or at 613-738-1605.



Dates to Remember

Space Camp: April 7

Council Meeting: April 13 at 7pm

Bike Sale: April 17 (equipment intake April 16)