



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

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December 2010

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 14th, in the Library of Hopewell School, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.

Guest Speaker: Elia Saikaly

At the November Council meeting, Elia Saikaly of **FindingLife.ca** spoke to members about his planned visit to the Kenyan village of Solio to help build much-needed school rooms. Last year, Elia inspired our students with his webcast climb up Mount Everest and work in Nepal to build an orphanage. Because he has inspired such good among our kids, Hopewell will this year be hosting a number of fundraisers to assist Elia with his African journey.

Two key events have been planned to raise funds. On December 16th, the school will host a talent show, concert and bazaar where students will sell their crafts or services such as babysitting. Look for more information on this great event on the Hopewell website or from your child's teacher. The Spring event will be a Spring Cleanup and rummage sale with a focus on helping the environment. All funds raised will support two charities - a local one entitled Education Foundation, our school board's foundation to support the area's children in need as well as Elia's charity in Kenya.

Chair's Report:

In early November, the Glebe Community Association sponsored an education forum to discuss stresses within schools in our community, particularly overcrowding and

under-population. Members of the community came together to discuss seven short and medium-term proposals to re-balance the population among the area's schools. The turnout was quite good with 80 to 100 parents and 2 members of the board of trustees. The results of the meeting were documented and will be presented at the Board's Business Services Meeting. The Board's baseline accommodation review will occur in the next 1-2 years so proposals were intended to be submitted before that time to express the community's preferences. **Council Chair Neal Hill is looking for members to be part of the Education and Policy Committee** in order to participate in ongoing discussions to ensure Hopewell's interests continue to be represented. If you can contribute to this committee, please contact Neal Hill at nhill55@gmail.com.

Principal and Teachers' Report:

Principal Nicole Turpin described the voluntary survey that is being rolled out. The goal of the survey is to inform the school of the environment the children live in at home and in school, and how they feel about it. If your child is in grades 1-6, the survey will be sent home to complete with parents. For grades 7 and 8, the survey will be completed

online at school. All questions are voluntary. The Toronto Board conducted a similar survey and have used the results to create specific programs, educate teachers and identify schools in need of the most assistance.

Celyne Brunet, a Hopewell MFI teacher, provided a brief snapshot of initiatives at Hopewell. Great new tools such as Elmo projectors and LCD projectors continue being introduced into many of the classrooms. The school Librarian, Miss Ruppel, got a nod for her incredible support of teachers in researching materials and responding to questions. Fellow teacher Anne-Marie Gervais was also thanked for spending time setting up technology and providing support in the classroom. Miss Shynal helped organize the beautiful Remembrance Day assembly featuring the Junior Choir. Other significant events in the past month include the United Way walkathon, a field trip to Scotiabank Place to watch the Sens practice and speak to the kids and a field trip to the Museum of Civilization, to name a few. Thanks to all parents for their support in putting on these great activities.

Budget Committee:

Approval was sought (and given) for \$4,300 to support this year's Space Camp program. The dollars will cover a portion of the cost to send 93 Grade 6 kids to camp this year.

Yard Safety

At the recommendation of city Police, gates have been installed at the two entrances of the Tarmac Yard and will be closed each night. While the yards are cleaned every morning, the custodian has found some dangerous items and it was recommended that the yard be gated to ensure child safety. The gates will be left open on Saturdays by the custodians and we are looking at a way to also keep them open during the day on Sundays.

Ski and Skate Sale Update:

Once again a big THANK YOU to Jenni Tipper (Hopewell Parent) who spearheaded the Ski and Skate sale and to the volunteers who helped make it happen. The Bake Sale to help support the Space Camp trip was a success too and raised \$390. Thank you bakers and buyers!

Dates to Remember:

Council Meeting: Dec. 14 at 7:00pm
Pizza Lunch: Dec. 3 and 17
Subway Lunch: Dec. 10
Holiday Bazaar: Dec. 16 5pm to 8pm
School Winter Term Begins: Jan. 3

Community Corner:

Macaroni Kid is a free newsletter and website that highlights kid-friendly things to do in Ottawa. Its readers are parents and caregivers looking for the best family friendly activities, classes, events and places to take their kids. You can check it out at:
www.ottawacapitalregion.macaronikid.com.