



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

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January 2012

The next Council meeting is January 17 at 7pm in the school library.

Principal's Report:

Hopewell teachers are receiving additional training in how to teach math using creative reasoning and relating problems to experiences the students may have in their own lives. The idea is to make math more approachable and less intimidating. This is in line with the school's improvement plan for this year which is focused on numeracy.

The Blizzard Bazaar was a great success again this year and will be used to fund Me to We programs. Thanks to all parents for their support.

A number of new initiatives have been kicked off in the school including Robotics Club, which began in December, and a Book Club for Juniors, run by a Hopewell parent and is focused on new award winning Canadian literature. Both programs have attracted a LARGE number of interested students.

There is a continued focus on technology at Hopewell. At this point, every second teacher has an Elmo (a device used to project any hard copy material on a screen) and every three teachers has a media cart. A wireless network is also being installed. The school has been offered laptops on a trial basis to connect wirelessly within intermediate classroom. Once the trial is over, costs and longer term usage policies will be created.

Teacher's Report:

The Food Drive in December was very successful – thanks again to all families who contributed. Hopewell's intermediate volleyball team is doing very well. A big thank you goes out to all parents who have assisted with taking students to and from the tournaments.

Dr. Eva Olson, a holocaust survivor, talked to grades 6, 7 and 8 late last Fall. Dr. Olson has dedicated the past 10 years of her life speaking to schools about her experiences growing up in a concentration camp; she relates this to being a bystander in a bullying situation. Students embraced the discussion, and the event also helped to reinforce Hopewell's focus on creating a safe and caring environment for students.

Budget Committee Update:

- A request for \$634 for two robotics kits for upcoming competitions was approved.
- A payment of \$2,000 to the school was made to help cover the costs of the turf yard improvement project.
- A request by Safe and Caring Schools Committee for \$1,500 to host a program for Juniors through YouCan was approved.

Safe and Caring School Committee

Presentation by YouCan:

Barbara Mitchell of YouCan attended the December 13th Council meeting to update parents on programs being considered for Hopewell.

YouCan has been in place for 14 years and is located at St Paul University. The organization is dedicated to conflict resolution with a particular focus on mediation.

YouCan just completed a three-year project with OCDSB. Training was completed in a number of schools for grade 7 and grade 10 students. In these schools, there has been a positive impact on violence and conflict.

Hopewell is considering working with YouCan to provide Grade 7s with cross-cultural training and Grade 8s with training on peer mediation. Those trained would also work with Juniors to pass on their knowledge. Council will be asked to fund this initiative through a formal proposal. This will build on other Safe and Caring Schools initiatives already held and additional ones planned for the balance of this school year.

Allergy Committee:

A number of changes have been made to the School Board's policy re: care of students with life-threatening medical conditions.

The Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) policies on dealing with life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) were updated in the Fall of 2009. The updated policies and procedures can be found at the OCDSB website under Policies, Procedures & Forms for School Operations, at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n-p/Policies%20and%20Procedures/P%20108%20SCO%20GeneralMed.pdf> (Care of Students with Severe or Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, policy P.108.SCO) and <http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n-p/Policies%20and%20Procedures/PR%20548%20SCO%20Severe%20Allerg.pdf> (Severe, Life-threatening

Allergies, procedure PR.548.SCO).

The changes primarily deal with: improving nutrition break supervision; having parents ask for approval from teachers to distribute food to their classrooms; and encouraging inclusive accommodation at nutrition breaks. A presentation highlighting these new requirements was given at the December 13, 2011 Hopewell School Council meeting.

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 (anaphylaxis) is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods. 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 for school celebrations, and would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

If you are interested in more information regarding food allergies, please feel free to contact us at the school. Thanks again,

Allergy Committee Co-chairs
Karen Goodrich & Alison Fines

Dates to Remember:

Council Meeting: January 17 at 7:00pm

Subway Lunch: January 19

PD Day: January 20

Pizza Lunch: January 27