



ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com

E-mail: parentspeak@gmail.com

June 2010

The next Council meeting is: **Tuesday June 15th at 7 pm** in the school library.

Chair's Corner

This is the last issue of *ParentSpeak* for this school year, so I wanted to do one very important thing first: Thank all the many, many volunteers who gave so freely of their time to help make this an outstanding 100th year of learning at Hopewell!

For all of our many events throughout the year, we had legions of parents turn out time and again to make them a success. And especially with the "Hopewell 100 Week" celebrations in late May, none of the hugely enjoyable activities would have been possible without dozens and dozens of parents who came out to give their time. So a big, big THANK YOU! to any and all who pitched in.

Secondly, I wanted to alert everyone to watch their email inboxes for a very **important survey from the Hopewell Council**. As you have probably heard repeatedly over the course of this year, the School Board is considering many major policy changes that could affect Hopewell and how it educates our children. So Council is preparing a survey to help us understand what you, the Hopewell parent community, see as the most critical learning programs for Hopewell to build its future around. The survey will be delivered online, and should take only 5 minutes of your time to complete, so please help us by sharing your thoughts in this form.

Finally, I wanted to wish you all a great summer, and an even better school year next year than this! Thanks for your support and involvement this past year! -Neal Hill

Internet Safety Tips and Bullying: From Ottawa police Constable Drover-Jones' Presentation

- Keep computer out of the kids' bedrooms and locate it in a family shared area;
- Check who the kids are chatting with as there are many cases of kids chatting online with adults posing as kids;
- Teach kids not to share personal information with strangers online - it's no different from sharing that information in person with a stranger;
- Be clear on the rules when using social media sites - they are not to be used for bullying, harassment, etc. which falls under the criminal code;
- All content posted to an Internet site can be retrieved, *even if deleted* - need to make this clear to kids;
- Set parameters for Internet usage and enforce them;
- Need to be 13 years old to have a Facebook account;
- Most social media sites have:
 - a mechanism for reporting inappropriate use;
 - privacy settings- only allow actual, *known* friends to see your content.

Principal's and Teachers' Report:

- Preliminary Staffing Plan for 2010-11 is now available but it is highly likely that it will change a couple of times between June and September. At the moment there are quite a few split classes, especially in the core English stream.
- The school has received a grant to provide teachers with more training on literacy.
- Hopewell math teachers will go to Glebe High School to meet with its math teachers to help with the transition into grade 9 math which can be problematic.
- EQAO for grade 3 and 6 is happening between May 31 and June 11 and parents are asked to try and avoid scheduling appointments for their children during this period.
- A letter was sent to intermediate parents recently to clarify some questions about the off property lunch hour. Feedback received so far is to maintain the 2 days a week off property lunch next year.
- Hopewell's current and future music teacher held a "honk and blow" which allowed grade 6 students to try all different types of instruments under the supervision of music teachers to help determine the most suitable instrument for each student next year.

Balanced School Day Feedback

If you have any comments or feedback to give the Administration regarding the Balanced School Day please send them to parentspeak@gmail.com.

School Supplies Options for 2010/11:

Council member Marcia McAlpin is investigating the option of having an organization deliver school supply kits to students on the first day of school. Ordering of the school kits would be done online and would be the responsibility of parents. This is just an option to help parents avoid the in-store back-to-school shopping spree. So far quotes have been received from two companies: Tools for Schools and School Start Program.

More information on this program will be sent home in mid-June.

Committee Updates

Educational Issues and Policies:

This Committee has created a survey for parents. The questions revolve around setting priorities for how to get the school's population down to approximately 800 students - our target size. Please complete the survey by June 4. It is found at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XNRK5RK>

Grass Yard:

"Clean Sweep the Capital" took place at the school on Saturday May 15, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers. Planters in the primary yard were filled with mulch and the flower beds are now filled with colour.

Budget:

The \$1,268 raised at the Fall Ski and Skate Sale and the recent Bike Sale will be donated to York St. Public School.

Hopewell 100th Anniversary:

May 17 to 21 was a week full of fun and festivities that marked Hopewell's 100th birthday. It included: alumni wine and cheese reception; primary choir performance; Hopewell 100 Years musical; door decorating competition; Hopewell mural; Sock Hop; school tours; birthday cake celebration; tree planting; Hopewell student newspaper; and a display of Hopewell's historical collection.

Thank you to all those who made it happen!

Check out the article in the Ottawa Citizen:

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Celebrating+years+community+spirit+Hopewell+Avenue+Public/3044511/story.html>

MPP Yasir Naqiv's birthday message on You Tube.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCIQ0bR6Xa0>

Please find attached a photo and description of the artwork *Faces of Hopewell* created by ALL the students and staff under the direction of Christos Pantieras.

Thank You Volunteers:

Grass Yard Volunteers:

Carole, John and Harry Loop
Dawn, Jack and Kate Collings

Gordon and Laura Williams
Kathy and Hannah Stewart
Frederik Hayward
Megan McNeill-McKinnell
Pamela Dakers
Sylvie Turnbull
Maggie Fawcett and Jim Fawcett
Ben Grove
Christina Stromberg
Reem Aslan
Bill Tucker
Celyne Brunet
Rob and Adam Coplan

Hopewell 100th Anniversary Volunteers:

Organizing Committee:

Judy Calder
Jane Dickson-Gilmore
Valerie Egener
Ivana Jonasch
Michele Sprott
Joanne Di Saverio
Jaynie Stephenson
Nicola Maule
Sara Adam
Celyne Brunet
Liz Bonell
Allison Woyiwada
Kim MacDonald

Event Volunteers:

Lori Pope
Lori Camilucci
James Hunter
Frances Berkman
Neal Hill
Jo-Anne LeFevre
Claire Millar
Joy Temple
Janet Stephens
Errlee Caruthers
Jocelyn Hurd
Karen Goodrich
Dawn Collings
Samiah Ibrahim
Gill Alexander-Assal
Craig Piche
Susan Richards
Georgina Hunter
Chase Harris
Harvey Brodtkin
Ranjinie Jothiravi
Carrie Connell
Edith Fraser

Patricia Williams
Avra Gibbs Lamey
Danielle Takoff
Gwen Gal
Sarah Leonard
Carole Anne Piccinin
Michelle Reimer
Michelle McConkey
Sue Twelves
Marcia McAlpin
Mary Dalipaj
Karen Stevens-Guille
Mary Casey
Kelly Patterson
Myriam Paré
Marie-Claude Savoie
Cynthia Grant
Patricia Williams
Jennifer Geduld
Catriona Birnie
Colette Stoeber
Rand Patterson
Helena Merriam
Heather Barrett
Andrew Rogers
Paisley Nesmith
Patty Morrison
Angela Blackwell
Andrea Nappert
Kathryn Owens
Caroline Coady
Helena Merriam
Karen Marcus
Cynthia Grant
Angela Blackwell
Britt-Mari Sykes
Karen Tsuk
Michele Chadwick
Valerie Dancause
All the Cake Bakers



Dates to Remember

EQAO Testing Grade 3 & 6: May 31 - June 11

Council Meeting: June 15 at 7pm

Junior Track Meet: June 8

Grade 7 & 8 Band Trip: June 16, 17 and 18

Special 100 Year Poem

by JC Sulzenko

(poet, author of “Annabella and The Tycoon,” and parent of two Hopewell graduates), written on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Hopewell Public School, May 2010

What a school is

Bricks, glass, concrete, steel.
Walls, stairs (up and down.)
Books and screens, minds - open
to the chemistry of learning.

First day of the week, yawn...
Last day of the week, wheeeee!
Summers off!
Back-to-school jitters.

a history of 15,000 voices rhyming,
counting, shouting, laughing.
Music. Artistry. Immersion in the ‘ologies.’
Unheard fears and tears, too.

Basketball beats in the gym.
Long distance runners at the park.
Lunch hours along Bank Street.
Hard work, homework.

Teamwork, inside.
Helping others, outside.
No bullies, please!
Families, hands-on: thank you!

One hundred years - milestones mark
seismic shifts, passages and people.
The future of these halls unknown,
but their legacy in good hands.