



# Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

## *ParentSpeak*

*(Council's monthly newsletter)*

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March 2011

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th, in the Library of Hopewell School, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.**

### Chair's Report:

**A HUGE Thank You to the coordinators and volunteers of the Hopewell Beach Party last week. It was an amazing event with a DJ, games, face painting, photo booth and food!**

A planning meeting took place on Wednesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss priorities for the balance of the school year. Grass Yard plans were central to the discussion. Given the interest now shown by the Board, the group present felt that now is the time to move on the yard project. Upon review of the expenditures, Council felt it could set aside \$5K from this year's budget for the grass yard. This would mean other contributions made by Council in the past would need to be set aside for this year, in particular technology investments which were heavily subsidized by Council in the past few years. A decision was made to host a family barbecue at the end of the school year (versus a "fun day" held during the school day) as a means of kicking off fundraising efforts for the yard project.

### Guest Speaker:

The Assistant Branch Manager of the Sunnyside Branch of the library updated Council and School Administration on the new and innovative services being offered by the Library. She strongly encouraged both field trips and family visits to the Library. Along with renovations which are driving far more traffic

through the library, a number of new services have also been launched. Examples of these include: "Ready to read" backpacks filled with age appropriate books, available to check out and return; the 1-2-3 Read with Me program designed to get all children ready to read; Book Clubs for kids; Tumble Books which can be reviewed and interacted with on the kids' website in a variety of languages; Kids Book Club for older kids; and on the website, museum passes, ski passes, art passes, and more. Families are encouraged to check out the website <http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/>, or come into the Library to take advantages of all these great services.

### Principal's Report:

- The Sparkle Girls program wrapped up for the year. It drew approximately 150 participants who used more than 40 tubes of sparkle to create their treasures!
- Hopewell's girls' volleyball team won the gold medal in the B division! All the girls had a great time and a big thanks was extended to parents for driving to practice and tournaments
- Stephanie Moffat, who organizes the "Me to We Club", announced another event to raise more money for Solio. A rummage sale will be held on March 31<sup>th</sup> in the Atrium from 5-8 p.m. The teachers are also hoping to have some

eco-friendly products available for sale, such as re-usable water bottles, compost liners, recycled art in addition to rummage sale items. Intake of donated items for the sale will be held the week prior to the sale, as well as the night of the sale. Unsold items will go to charity. Junior choir will also have a performance that night. More details will follow.

- Another Solio fundraiser will be held by the kindergarten children who will put on a concert as their contribution to this important cause. Parents will be invited to come to the concert and give a voluntary donation. In addition, the Primary choir began the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Their concert will take place on the same day as the volunteer appreciation breakfast.

#### **School Effectiveness Program:**

Principal Nicole Turpin debriefed Council on the School Effectiveness Program. It is based on both qualitative and quantitative information and is used as a tool to determine areas of focus for the School for the year. A baseline assessment was conducted for each division, and priorities for improvement were identified. Teachers plan lessons around these improvement initiatives, then re-assess students to measure performance and compare results among members of their division. For this year, areas of focus include inferencing and fostering higher order thinking among the students. For teachers, a focus on professional learning and leadership has allowed all members of the teaching staff to share ideas and brainstorm solutions to problems affecting students who are having difficulty.

#### **Budget Committee:**

**Creative Magazine:** \$330 was requested for printing this year's Creative Magazine. A recommendation was made by the Budget Committee to approve.

**Library:** a request was made for \$5,000. Council was unable to commit these funds at this time due to other fundraising activities still to take place and uncertainty around revenues.

A recommendation was made to provide a smaller amount of \$1,250 now and to revisit the issue at the end of the year.

#### **Yard Update**

Chair Neal Hill reported on the Board's willingness to upgrade the yard this summer in time for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board is looking for some of the required funding to come from Parent Council and to collaborate on ideas. A basic design provided by the Board's architect was reviewed at the meeting. More to come on the dollar amount required to make this project happen in the short term.

#### **Safe and Caring Schools Committee:**

A meeting was held by the committee in late January to discuss bullying in the school. A local expert in peer relations and bullying behaviours will be approached about running information sessions for parents, teachers and intermediate students. The intent is to have the intermediate students help facilitate the anti-bullying programs such as being out in the yard to oversee play and to help out as needed by teaching helpful behaviours.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

**Council Meeting:** March 8 at 7:00pm

**Pizza Lunch:** March 11

**March Break:** March 14 to 18, 2011

**Me to We Rummage Sale:** March 31

**HAPPY MARCH BREAK EVERYONE!**