



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

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November 2010

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 10th, in the Library of Hopewell School, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with Guest Speaker activist Elia Seiklay.

Chair's Report:

Clifford Bowie School for special needs children is looking to raise \$110K to build an accessible school yard. The School has asked Hopewell Council to consider their cause for any voluntary donations that may be made by Council over the course of this school year. This cause will be considered as a potential recipient for funds raised through the Ski, Skate and Bike sales. Please note the **Ski and Skate Sale** will be ready to receive equipment on Friday Nov. 19 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm and the equipment will be sold on Saturday Nov. 20 from 9am to 11:30pm. There will also be a **bake sale** to raise funds for Space Camp on Nov. 20.

Principal's Report:

Principal Nicole Turpin reported a good start to the school year, with a total of 40 classes, none of which are over capacity. Other updates:

- 1) **Voluntary fee payment** for this year has gone up from 30-40% of families to approximately 70%. The School is very grateful to all parents in the community for their cooperation.
- 2) **Report cards** are changing for this school year. To coincide with the two terms (September to end January and February to end of June), the School will move from three report cards to two. However, a progress report will be introduced in November providing an update on your child's learning skills, progress to date as well as areas needing focus. Teacher interviews will remain following the progress report. More information

will be provided by your child's teacher and on the School website. This is a Ministry-driven change which is being rolled out across the province. The format of the report cards will also change, moving away from standardized wording and incorporating more teacher comments.

3) Environment:

The School has moved to 2-box recycling (just like at home). This will allow teachers to reinforce the same recycling lessons they're already learning at home.

4) School effectiveness plan:

The Principal will present the school effectiveness plan for discussion at the next Council meeting in November. She is looking for feedback, so come to the meeting to have your say.

5) Hopewell 2009-2010 EQAO Results:

The School has made significant improvements in all tested categories.

Grade 3

- Reading: 91% at or above level 3
- Writing: 87% at or above level 3
- Mathematics: 83% at or above level 3

Grade 6

- Reading: 94% at or above level 3
- Writing: 89% at or above level 3
- Mathematics: 85% at or above level 3

Grocery Coupon Fundraiser:

The October Grocery Coupon Fundraiser was successful with over **\$1,587.50** being raised for the school. Thank you to everyone who participated and please note that Council will be running this fundraiser again in February and May 2011.

Raising a Digital Generation:

Media Awareness Network Launches New Tutorial for Parents

Media Awareness Network (MNet) recently released *e-Parenting Tutorial: Keeping up with your kids' online activities*, an online resource to help parents better understand and become actively involved in their children's online lives. *e-Parenting Tutorial* is available for free on Media Awareness Network's Web site (www.mediaawareness.ca). It is also available on Be Web Aware (www.bewebaware.ca), an Internet safety Web site for parents developed by MNet in partnership with Bell.

Council Election Results for the 2010-2011 school year:

Elections for this school year were held during the October meeting but many vacancies still remain. If you are interested in any of the vacant positions below, please contact Council Chair at nhill55@gmail.com, or 613-762-9596.

Council Positions:

Chair : Neal Hill

Secretary: minutes to be shared among various volunteers; all months covered

Treasurer: Michele Sprott

Primary English Core French Rep.: vacant

Junior English Core French Rep.: vacant

Intermediate English Rep.: vacant

Primary EFI Representative: Rob Coplan

Junior EFI Representative: vacant

Intermediate EFI Rep.: Susan Barbatbun

Junior MFI Representative: Judy Calder

Intermediate MFI Representative: vacant

Optional Positions:

Vice Chair: Jennifer Small

Past Chair:

Volunteer Coordinator: Lori Mockson-Borcsik

Events Coordinator: vacant

Communications: Nicola Maule & Lori Camilucci

HAPSC rep to OCASC: vacant

Grass Yard

John Loop reported on the complex process that last year's committee underwent leading to an overall plan for the grass yard. The next step is to divide the plan into specific tasks to be executed by various committee members and volunteers. Look for more information to come on how you can take part.

The committee also coordinated Hopewell's participation in the City of Ottawa's Clean Sweep the Capital last Spring, focusing primarily on flower beds and protecting trees. The turnout to assist in the effort was excellent. John would also like to organize the School's participation in the Fall Clean Sweep. This should take place in November. He will coordinate with the school custodian, Chris Farquhar, to identify areas of concern. The City will provide mulch and compost and the Committee will be submitting a budget request for any lumber supplies required. Council will provide funds for drinks and snacks for volunteers.

Look for more information coming soon from Council on volunteer requirements for this clean-up event. This is a great opportunity for student volunteers who need to fulfill their requirements! One final note on the Grass Yard – as a follow-up to last year's efforts, the blocked drainage pipe in the grass yard is now repaired and properly connected to the City's sewer system. This should prevent any further flooding. Note that the School is still looking at ways to cover up the muddy area that was left after all the digging was done to repair the underground pipe.

Budget:

The Budget Committee will be struck immediately to hear requests for funding. Michele Sprott will chair the committee. If you'd like to participate, please contact Michele at michelesprott@rogers.com.

Space Camp:

The Space Camp Committee will be struck and will be chaired by Judy Calder. Volunteers to participate on the Committee should contact Judy Calder at judycalder@rogers.com.

Other standing committees include Allergies, Safe and caring schools, Educational issues and policies, Enrichment, Technology, Grocery coupons, Pizza and Subway lunches. If you're interested in participating in any one of these committees, come to the Council meeting or contact Council Chair Neal Hill at nhill55@gmail.com, or 613-762-9596.

Dates to Remember

Council Meeting: Nov. 10 at 7:00pm

Parent Teacher Interviews: Nov. 11 and 12

PD Day: Nov. 12 and 26

Pizza Lunch: Nov. 19

Subway Lunch: Nov. 11 and 25

Ski and Skate Sale: Nov. 19 equipment intake
and Nov. 20 equipment sale