



## Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

### *ParentSpeak*

No.2 October 2007

The first School Council meeting for the 2007/08 school year will take place on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the school staff room.

**School Council positions need to be filled!**

**Please come out and join the School Council Team.**

#### *Chair's Corner (Sara Adam)*

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council's Annual Report for the 2006/07 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community:  
Welcome back! We hope you had a safe and happy summer. The Hopewell Avenue Public School Council (HAPSC) had a very rewarding 2006/07 year. HAPSC held 10 meetings and worked on various issues during the year which included **Enrichment programs, Safe and Caring School initiatives, *ParentSpeak*, Read-a-thon, Fundraising and Public Education Advocacy.** These meetings were open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community.

The purpose of the School Council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School Councils are advisory organizations that make recommendations to the principal and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each School Council. Below is a summary of our committees' activities which reflects the advice that HAPSC provided to the principal in 2006/07. It also shows the principal's willingness to consider and implement this advice in the spirit of partnership.

Our **Enrichment Committee** set the bar high as they brought in professional instructors to teach

the students yoga, Hip Hop, drama and art during the lunch hour. The artwork from the collaborative art class contributed to warming up the common spaces in the school.

Our **Safe and Caring Schools Committee** worked in close consultation with the administration and staff to address security issues and procedures. I thank the administration for creating a safer more ordered school environment. The new character education plan made our students better citizens of this community. The Roots of Empathy program contributed to the character education plan and extended our community to include the babies and their families. I thank them for giving their time and facilitating this wonderful learning opportunity for our students. The undertaking of the bullying survey facilitated by parent volunteer, Tina Daniels, was an enormous bonus to Hopewell.

The creation of *ParentSpeak*, our monthly newsletter, has helped to better inform parents of HAPSC activities. When parents know and understand the role of HAPSC and what it does for our students it creates a positive school community.

**Read-a-thon** was an amazing fundraising event and it was the perfect example of how HAPSC and the school can work together to create a partnership which has academic and financial benefits. Our Read-a-thon model was

created at Hopewell and is now internationally acclaimed.

**Community Building Events** such as the Ski & Skate and Bike Sales were organized by HAPSC but they offered a valuable service to the entire community. Our Year End BBQ was a huge undertaking due to the size of Hopewell but the kids look forward to it and it is a great opportunity to bring students and their families together for some fun.

**Philanthropy** was an important component of HAPSC. The fundraising element of Read-a-thon was split 50/50 with our beacon school, RE Wilson, to contribute to its library improvement fund. We also sponsored their Read-a-thon with prizes and shared book reviews between the students of the two schools. All proceeds from our Ski and Skate Sale were gifted to RE Wilson for their breakfast program. In addition, HAPSC donated \$1500 to Centennial Public School's accessible playground project.

**Additional Fundraising** activities conducted were the grocery coupon and QSP magazine subscription programs and pizza lunches. The proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policy. These fundraising activities are identified in the attached financial summary entitled "Sources

and Uses of Project Funds". Another summary of financial activity related to HAPSC's administrative activities, entitled "Sources and Uses of Operating Funds" is also attached. Minutes of HAPSC meetings and financial records are available for public inspection at the school office and in the HAPSC office.

I wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of HAPSC in 2006/07. Special thanks are due to the following Council members: Bettina Longino, Michele Sprott, Rebecca Will, Judy Calder, Susan Barbatbun, Nancy Bickford, Diane Hiscox, Carol Brillinger, Anna Gladish, Nicola Maule, Beth Doubt, Patti Ryan, Jenni Tipper, Marcia McAlpin, Kathryn Owens, Cynthia Sugars, Tina Daniels, Ian Winter, Gordon Schwartz, Janet Stephens, Alison Fines, Pauline Martens, Karen Goodrich, Susan Gardner, Linda Hamelin, Terri Bjorgan, Barbara Johnston-lafelice and Melissa Kirkwood.

I look forward to another productive year working with the 2007/08 HAPSC who will be elected at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please e-mail me at: [sara.a@sympatico.ca](mailto:sara.a@sympatico.ca)