



## Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

### *ParentSpeak*

No.1 September 2007

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

I welcome all returning and new families back to school. Our Councilors took a nice break from school volunteer commitments over the summer and are now ready to wrap up our successful 2006-07 term. This issue of *ParentSpeak* is dedicated to soliciting interest in being a part of the 2007-08 School Council. We had great success in all our programs last year and invite all parents to consider participating in Council activities and projects in the coming school year.

I would like to briefly reflect on last year's spring events. June was extremely busy for all the students, families and teachers, in our community. I want to thank everyone for coming to our annual Family BBQ. We had record attendance at the event! Laurent Gabor, of Sixth Sense Catering Shop on Bank St. graciously offered his services to our community and I don't think he knew what hit him! We could not keep up with the demand at the grill. Our event team was amazing and the addition of new and more diverse activities proved to be excellent for the kids. The volume of people in attendance reflects the strong sense of community in our school.

In May we wrapped up Read-a-Thon. Again we had enormous success raising over \$5,000. We were pleased to present our partner school, R.E.Wilson, with a cheque for \$2,500 for their Library Improvement Fund.

The current Council wraps up the 2006-07 year at the September 18 Council meeting. **On October 9 we will have the election of the new Council.** All positions are open to anyone who is interested. Please consider becoming a part of School Council. Please feel free to contact me if you have an interest in joining the Council team. [sara.a@sympatico.ca](mailto:sara.a@sympatico.ca)

#### Six Reasons to Join School Council

##### School Council is...

- 1. Social:** Joining Council offers a great opportunity to meet new people. (Parents, teachers and administrators) We go out for beers and coffee!
- 2. Constructive:** Nothing beats the rewarding feeling of seeing projects from their initiation to completion and the impact it has on the children. Our committees make good things happen.
- 3. Educational:** It provides great information sharing around issues in education. Learn about: curriculum, staffing, operations and policies.
- 4. Charitable:** Every year Council looks for ways to reach out to less fortunate schools in our zone and our city. Whether it is in the donation of goods or funds, social responsibility is one of Council's important goals.
- 5. Political:** Council contributes to community issues and has a role in advocating for changes in public education.
- 6. Supportive:** Council is representative of our parent community and has a role in hearing their concerns and assisting or advising them on solutions and available resources.

School Council is a fantastic way to get tapped into the school community. Being an active member opens the door to countless opportunities and enrichment for our children. School Council is always hoping that

more parents will share their ideas and their time to keep our great programs and commitments alive. Please join us on the second Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meetings will take place on: **September 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)** and **October 9** from 7 pm to 9 pm in the school staffroom. All parents are welcome!

## School Council Committees

Most of the Council's activities are undertaken by committees. Below are the committees that were formed for the 2006-07 school year to give you a sample of what was achieved.

**Safe and Caring Schools Committee:** This committee supports and contributes to the development of a positive school climate and atmosphere in consultation with the administration and staff. For example, students participated in activities that dealt with bullying prevention.

**Allergy Committee:** This committee assists the administration in implementing current school policies by disseminating information, training in symptom recognition and treatment, and risk-reduction strategies. Hopewell is a nut free school and please remember to always read food labels as the contents can change.

**Enrichment Committee:** This committee provides Hopewell students access to programs during the lunch hour that will enrich their minds and help to keep their bodies healthy. Popular programs are: art, recorder, Hip Hop, drama and yoga.

**Events Committee:** This committee plans, executes a number of events designed to foster a sense of community. Ideally, event content reflects the core values established by Council including social responsibility, health and well being, and exposure to enriched educational experiences.

**Read-a-Thon Committee:** This committee is responsible for running Read-a-Thon which is our most valued literacy program and fundraiser. It involves, events co-ordination, communications, consultation with teachers and administration as well as outreach to beacon schools.

If one of these committees interests you or if you have an idea for a committee that you would like to see at Hopewell, please come to the School Council meeting on **October 9** where Council's priorities for the 2007-08 year will be set.

## Fundraising Update

**QSP Magazine Campaign:** Raise money for the school and encourage reading by subscribing to new magazines or renewing current subscriptions. The campaign officially starts in October but if you would like to order earlier please visit [WWW.QSP.CA](http://WWW.QSP.CA) and enter code #10768 for JK-6 or #30550 for grades 7 and 8.

## Special Education Information Session

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is hosting a **Special Education Café** at Confederation High School, 1645 Woodroffe Avenue on September 27 from 1 pm to 3 pm and again from 7 pm to 9 pm. At this session parents and staff will have the opportunity to share concerns, ideas and recommendations regarding Special Education Programs for the 2008-09 school year in advance of possible changes.