

Welcome to the Elm Street Home & School News Letter. Lots has happened since September!! We started the school year off in September with the completion of our renovation. The staff literally had about 2 days to get all of their books and supplies organized for the first day of school. They did a phenomenal job. The school looks amazing since the reno. We have a beautiful new Gym, Music Room, Library, Staff Room, Office, Class Rooms as well as some smaller rooms for E.A.s and Monitors. We are very proud of the "New School". The Home and School Executive donned rubber gloves and got down to the nitty gritty and cleaned up and out the former staff room in efforts to make it our own. As the days went on in September we came to find out the we'd be sharing our new found room with The Milk Program, Breakfast Program, Life Skills, Christmas Baking, along with several other things. Afer all of the kinks were worked out, things are now running smoothly from the now "Multi Purpose Room."

We started the year with our annual fund raiser. We went with the Norcard Card Campaign as well as their Gift Catalogue. Once again it was a great success. We brought in about \$25,000.00 & of that about half went back to the school.

Our hot lunch program got up and running very smoothly this year with a lot of the same parents volunteering to come back and help out and do the same things as last year. This was a great help. We continued to offer Pizza, Hot Dogs, Subs and Wraps alternating each Friday. The students really enjoy the hot lunch program as it gives them a break from the everyday sandwich. With the money raised from this program we are able to keep our cupboard stocked for those children that may not have a breakfast, lunch, or snack for one reason or another.

Every second Tuesday our Home and School has a healthy snack program. This is run by parent volunteers as well. We have a different parent from each and every class bring in a healthy snack to their child's class for the morning recess. It is well received by all of the students and staff. We find that children who are not hungry can concentrate a lot better and are likely to do better in their school work.

On November 20th we celebrated National Child's Day. We had lots of parents bake chocolate chip cookies so that we had enough, one for every child and staff member. We also bought chocolate milk from ADL at a huge discount to give to every child and staff member.

In the fall we launched our second annual Coats for the Elm Street Kids Campaign. It was a huge success one again. We received several donations of money and a very large number of coats for the children. All together we handed out about 40 coats and or sets of snow pants to different children that needed them. Our efforts were appreciated by all of the children and parents that received them.

For Christmas we gave each child in the school a chapter book that we purchased through Scholastic Book Club. We were very happy to hear that the children all really enjoyed this. We also heard that the teachers thought that this was a great idea. It helps get the children into a new book to read.

The children in Grade 6 are helping to run a small canteen during the lunch hour. Half of the money raised will go back in to the school and the other help will go towards the Grade 6 graduation. They are going to be able to take a vote to decide what it is they want to do as the end of the year approaches.

We had another successful Staff Appreciation Week in February this year. We gave the teachers different things each day like Fruit & Veggie trays, Cinnamon Rolls and Muffins, Sandwiches, and the very large Pot-Luck on Friday. Each day there were special treats in all of the Staff Member's mailboxes. There was also a random draw for all of the prizes that were brought in to the school.

As 2009-2010 comes to an end we will be having a big fun day in June with a huge BBQ for all of the staff & students. We have done this in the past and it has been a huge success. The Summerside Credit Union helps us out with this event, so we are hoping for great weather again this year and everything else should just fall into place.

Next year we are ready to welcome the new Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes to Elm Street and hope that they really feel welcome and enjoy our school.

I'd really like to thank all of the parents that have come in to the school to help out with all of the different things that we have done over the last several months. Without all of your help we could not accomplish all of the things that we do for the children at Elm Street! I truly appreciate everything that everyone has done. Thank You once again! You are all awesome to be able to help out in any way big or small! Our Home and School at Elm Street executive is quite small, but we are able to accomplish a large number of things with the help of all of the parent volunteers that we have had come help with all that we do.

Just a reminder that we will be looking to fill following positions for the new school year: President, Vice President, and Secretary. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at demcar@pei.sympatico.ca Or call me at 886-2703.

Sincerely ,
Angie Matheson
Home & School President