

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

April, 2009

**St. Peter's Consolidated Home and School Association**

President: Andrea Studzinski

Principal: Linda Blackett

**Name of Project:**

St. Peter's Literacy Night

**Goal(s):**

- To increase parent involvement.
- To increase parental awareness of school activities.
- To promote positive interactions between parents, teachers and students.

**Description**

During the literacy night on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, students and parents were involved in many activities. Grade 1 read their work on an author study; Grade 2 read their mystery stories; Grades 3 and 4 put on a play; Grades 5 and 6 did a French Café; and Grade 7 and 8 read children's stories that they wrote.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, we had our literacy afternoon during which authors Diedre Kessler and Barb Kissick came to present to the students and parents. Diedre worked with the Grade 7 and 8 class on poetry and she talked to all grades about the process involved in writing a book. Barb did two presentations about writing revolving around a detective/spy theme.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, we were able to engage both parents and students in a fun evening of sharing student literary accomplishments. We were very pleased with the number of parents who attended. Over 100 people participated, including students, parents and other family members. Eighty-eight percent

of students and representation from seventy-one percent of student households participated. Unfortunately, our literacy afternoon was not as well-attended by parents and community members due to a power failure in the community on the day of the event. Because of this unforeseen circumstance, it was rescheduled for the following day but parents were not as well-informed about this rescheduling

### **Who did the project benefit?**

This project benefited everyone involved including parents, teachers and students. Our project allowed students to share with their parents some of their literacy accomplishments. It allowed parents to see what their children are learning and doing at school. And it allowed parents, teachers and students to socialize in an informal manner. Many positive comments were made about the evening. A survey was sent home after the event; a copy of the results of this survey is attached.

### **What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?**

Although our school has had a very high attendance rate at events like these, there are still a few families who have yet to participate at such events.

### **Thoughts about the project topic** (provided by project partners)

Parent Information Nights can be a powerful way to connect the home and the school. This is particularly true if parents have a role in planning the event. Schools will welcome the Home and School's active participation in planning and participating in events designed to provide parents with information relating to their children's learning.

So, parents, be proactive, talk to the school's administration about becoming involved with information nights or better still, design a parent information night and ask the school to partner with Home and School.