

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

May, 2009

### **Prince Street Elementary Home and School Association**

President: Shelley Muzika

Principal: Terry MacIsaac

#### **Name of Project:**

Young Author's Night In Pictures

#### **Goal(s):**

- To help raise awareness of POPS - Parents of Prince Street - and facilitate more parent involvement in the school and the community.

#### **Description**

The POPS group and the school staff planned the event, Young Authors Night held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

We wanted to provide pictures of parents and students reading together

Teachers taught the writing process to the children who each chose a story topic.

The stories were published and then the students practiced reading them during interclass visits.

A variety of ways were used to invite parents to Young Authors night.

At the event the children read to their parents. Parents heard other children's stories as well.

Pictures were taken of each family to be given to them later.

#### **Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, there was a big event with parents and children together celebrating writing and storytelling.

It was an opportunity for parents to take pride in their children as students and authors. Our event resulted in significant parent awareness of their children's capabilities. As well, parents and children were both proud to receive pictures of themselves reading together.

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

Parents learned the importance of the home and the school working together.

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

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

Young Authors Night

We can't underestimate the power of being recognized as an author, a creator of a book.

The process of creating a book is a complex process that involves time and significant effort to produce a quality product. Being an author means that you have to understand such things as the writing process, the different components of a book, your audience, use of illustrations, publishing, etc. Writing a book also means being able to read the book! Providing an opportunity for a child to talk about their book and share it with others is a powerful way to encourage children not only to write but to read.