

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund
June, 2009

Donagh Home and School Association

President: Patti Shea

Principal: Anne Hall

Name of Project:

Springtime Bike Rodeo

Goal(s):

To bring parents and students together to improve bike safety and safety awareness.

To bring parents those who don't normally come to the school out for some fun and interaction.

Description

Cycling PEI helped to plan a bike rodeo for the students. Parents were invited to participate. We had a prize for the children who brought their parents.

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we did. We had about half of our student body attend. Each student was required to bring a parent and received a prize for doing so.

Who did the project benefit?

Our students benefitted; they had bike inspections performed and their parents were shown any problems that were found with the bikes. Students participated in several different courses. We had lots of giveaways and food. Parents and students all had great fun!

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

We still have parents that do and will possibly always think that they don't need to get involved.

We are attempting to break down barriers.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

A bike way is a good way for the child to "be in charge" in the same way a person playing golf is "in charge". Such events focus on the individual and are opportunities for the child to learn things that are very important to their world.

Events like bike rodeos are times, like golf, to say "well done" to the child. It is a time not to be critical when things are not going so well but rather to say, "how about trying this." Dads really like events such as bike rodeos. They are highly participatory, measurable and bring out the child in Dads who recall those times when riding a bike was the way to keep their world connected.

Bike rodeos are great opportunities for a group of children, parents and "experts" such as the police to come together and focus on safety. As we know, a lecture approach doesn't work; what does work is children, parents and others meeting to let the child know both the importance of bike safety and why parents are so concerned - their child is their life!