

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
September, 2009**

**Athena Home and School Association**

**President: Sue Pettit**

**Principal: Jerry McAulay**

**Name of Project: Reader Board**

**Goal(s):**

- To increase parental engagement at Athena Elementary School
- To get the message out to parents and the community that Athena School is a welcoming place to visit
- To increase awareness about and advertise school events to parents and the community

**Description:**

The Athena Home and School have been saving for a number of years to purchase a "reader board" as a focal point in their campaign to have parents more involved with their child's learning and school. It is our intent to use the Parent Engagement Opportunities Fund monies to help defray the costs of this sign.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes. Our sign was installed during the first week back to school in September. We have received lots of positive feedback from parents and community members.

**Who did the project benefit?**

Although it hasn't been long since the sign went up, we anticipate that parents and local community members will be better informed about important dates and events happening at Athena. Time will tell how effective our new sign will be in welcoming parents to our school.

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

Although we are seeing more parents come to meetings, we could still benefit from more interest and involvement in initiatives aimed at improving schooling and education--versus fund-raising and baking!

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

Imagine if every time you went by a school there was a reader board that provided information about school events. At Athena the local Home and School Association and the school collaborated to have a reader board built and installed at the school.

We can't underestimate the impact of seeing information, whether it is posted for a block of time or always current. Such a public "blackboard" will definitely raise the awareness of parents and the community about what is happening in their school.

Using the reader board to highlight the learning that is taking place at the school and posting parent information on an on-going basis demonstrates to the community--and to parents in general--the commitment of the Athena Home and School Association and of the school administration to assist parents in their efforts to both support their children's learning and to partner with the school.