

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
June, 2009**

**Elm Street Home and School Association**

**President: Angela Matheson**

**Principal: Tracey Beaulieu**

**Name of Project:**

**Silly Canada Games Educational Fun Day**

**Goal(s):**

- To have parents and students participate in fun and games.
- To learn more about each province and territory.
- To make parents aware of the great school spirit at Elm Street Elementary.

**Description:**

On June 19th, 2009, we had a Canada Games Day celebration. This was an all-day event where parents helped with the food and beverage preparation and serving. We had all the children divided into groups of ten, all ranging in age from grades one to six. Each group represented a province, a territory or a capital city. There were numerous challenges, some timed and some not. Parents and students had to answer questions pertaining to the Games. Then, we fed more than 400 students a lunch of snacks, water, and BBQ'd hotdogs and ice cream sandwiches. We had lots of parents volunteer to come on the playing field with the lunch. The staff from the Summerside Credit Union even came to help serve lunch! They supplied most of the hotdogs and ice cream. It is something we are proud to have done and will do ourselves again next year!

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, we wanted parents, who normally do not come to the school, to come and assist and also to participate. As well, parents got to spend an entire day with their child--They had a great time!

**Who did the project benefit?**

Both parents and their child benefitted from this project. The smiles were huge and it was obvious that everyone enjoyed themselves!

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

We would like to have more parents feel that they can come to the school, whether it be to read to a class or to help serve the hot lunch program.

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

School-based sports events are a traditional way to engage parents who enjoy seeing their own or other children compete in a mixture of competitive events such as racing and also simply fun events like running with an egg and a spoon. It is particularly enjoyable when parents have the opportunity to participate in some of the events.

Holding a "Canada Games Day" in June is an excellent time of year to have a school-wide change of pace as it relates to learning. Remember that buried in a pile of long forgotten school memorabilia is the third place ribbon or certificate of participation we received and proudly took home to show our family members. At Elm Street, this was made all the more important because parents were at the event to cheer on the students.