

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

April, 2009

Somerset Consolidated Home and School Association

President: Donna MacLeod

Principal: Derik Arsenault

Name of Project:

Somerset Art Expo

Goal(s):

To introduce different forms of art to the students and let them explore their different interests.

To provide an opportunity for parents to engage in sharing their talents and expertise in these areas.

To have the students view their parents as teachers in creative learning experiences.

Description

We had art sessions in which parents demonstrated their skills in various areas by teaching the students how to make a variety of different art projects. Parents worked with the students in all grades and with different abilities.

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we had students participate in two sessions each which were led by parent and community volunteers.

Who did the project benefit?

Students benefited because they got to experience something new. They were very engaged and they all were able to see parents and volunteers as people having valuable skills to share. Parents also benefited because they were able to share talents and interests with the school community.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

Our main challenge is trying to get new families (parents) to come to meetings or help with school events. It seems to be always the same parents that help.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

Somerset Art Expo -Children and art go hand in hand. Art is an opportunity for individual expression and creativity. The phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" fits. Just ask any parent who reads to their child. Art can take different forms: painting, drama, sculpture, dance, speaking, clothing design, computer activities, drawing of all kinds, creating messages, ads, crafts, the list goes on. Art expos are times to expand the definition of learning and provide opportunities to celebrate the personal expressions of a person's world. It is also a time to focus on emotions and expressions of how students feel about their world.