

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

April, 2009

Fortune Consolidated Home and School Association

President Darren MacDonald

Principal: Roberta Clark

Name of Project:

Celebrating 41 Years of Fortune School

Goal(s):

To give the students a special “send off” and to make the transition from their school as smooth as possible.

To make the last days at Fortune Consolidated ones to remember for both students and parents.

To make sure the students and families had a history and understanding of Fortune School.

Description

The parents were engaged in the process at Fortune School to make a smooth transition for our children. A daylong celebration was planned with a pj party for all the children with a sing-along and movies, pizza and popcorn and a pancake breakfast in the morning. The second part of our celebration involved a concert of music and a celebration of our school. For refreshments we had a corn boil and cake and ice cream. A highlight was a slide show and speakers about special events and memories that took place at the school over the years.

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we think that we did succeed in giving our children a special good-bye party that they will remember for a long time. At our sleepover, one little boy expressed that “it was the best night of his life”!

Who did the project benefit?

Our children and were the main ones who benefited from this event. Although, our celebration probably helped the whole community realized that it was going to be ok to move on to a new school.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

In our situation, with the closing of our school, parents are still somewhat concerned that their children will still receive all the guidance and resources they need to excel. Hopefully, though, as result of our promoting, these fears will be lessened.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

Fortune School Celebration

June 2009, was a difficult time for children, parents and communities, in several communities on Prince Edward Island. Decades of history, communication, sharing and caring came to an end as their school closed. It was impressive to see communities come together to both celebrate the past and plan for the future. Phrases such as "it will be OK" mean little. No, it is a time of grieving and for parents and others across the province to "drop by" from time to time to check in and see how things are going.

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