

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
Spring, 2009

**Eliot River Home and School Association**

President: Tracey Hagan O'Connor

Principal: Anita Murphy

**Name of Project:**

Write Night: A Celebration of Student Writing

**Goal(s):**

- To increase parental understanding of the writing process.
- To promote positive interactions between parents, teachers and students.

**Description**

We had an evening event with parents, students and teachers during which the students made presentations to the group about what is involved in writing.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, students imparted information to parents via video presentations on the six traits of writing. Students then individually shared their own writings with parents and their families.

**Who did the project benefit?**

Students were the primary beneficiaries as they experienced interest from parents and families in the work they completed. Parents became more knowledgeable about student work and attempts to improve student learning.

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

While we had a large turnout of parents at this event, there are still a number of parents who are disconnected from the school, perhaps seeing the educator as the sole source of their children's education.

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

Writing Workshop

Children learn to write using a "writing process." Each step of the process is designed to assist the writer to produce a quality product. Parents who understand the writing process can have a major role in assisting their child develop their writing skills.

Writing about "real life events" makes writing come alive for the child. As the grade six children in Eliot River demonstrated, children can teach parents the writing process and have fun doing it.