

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
Fall, 2009**

**Westisle Composite High School Parent Council**

**President: Myles Noye**

**Principal: Charles Murphy**

**Name of Project: Parent Math Tutorials, Scholarship & Bursary Update, and  
Grade 10 Parent Orientation Night**

**Goal(s):**

- To better equip parents to help their children in Grades 10, 11, and 12 with the regular math curriculum and with Advanced Math.
- To give current information on bursaries and scholarships.
- To familiarize parents with their child's new school.
- To hold a Meet the Teacher Night for parents and students.

**Description:**

Our PEOF project had four components:

- Math tutoring for parents. For this idea, we will have a math teacher tutor parents one hour a week for five weeks
- A Grade 10 Orientation Night: We held this event in early September and had a good turn-out
- Current Information about bursaries and scholarships: All parents received updated information sheets.
- Career Expo and Meet the Teacher Night.

We had a Career Expo organized primarily by our Guidance Counselors that we helped prepare and advertise for. It was held on a Sunday evening and there were many different reps from different colleges, universities and other career choices.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, it gave parents and their children an opportunity to see what careers are available and what money is available to attend some of the schools outlined. With more than 100 people in attendance, it was a great success!

**Who did the project benefit?**

The parents and the students benefited because their parents had first-hand information to help them make informed decisions.

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

We are still trying to get enough parents interested to hold the Math tutorial sessions.

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

Graduation from high school is a right of passage for students and the beginning of a new era for parents as their children move from the end of their childhood years and enter what society deems as adulthood - be it through leaving home, entering the workforce or post secondary learning.

This is often a confusing time for parents. They want to be engaged in their child's next venture but recognize that asking too many questions can be interpreted as "pushing". They are often unsure of what to do, where to go for information or how to talk to their child.

Westisle Composite High held a Career Expo that was organized primarily by the school counsellors. The Home and School Parent Council took on the marketing role. Parents and their children had an opportunity to hear about career choices, higher learning opportunities and funding sources.

The Westisle parent information evening was a wonderful example of how a school and a Home and School parent Council can take leadership in parent engagement. This initiative attracted over 100 parents who were really appreciative of the opportunity to listen and learn. This is quite a feat for a high school and demonstrated that when there is an agenda that meets the needs of high school parents, "they will come". The event was deemed "a great success" by everyone!