

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

September, 2009

Morell Consolidated Home and School Association

President: Owen Parkhouse and Marcella Byrne

Principal: Leo Hendricken

**Name of Project: Morell and St. Peter's Parent Engagement Evening:
First Annual Community Fair**

Goal(s):

To welcome the parents of St. Peter's and the parents of Morell to an evening of parent engagement.

To welcome the St. Peter's Home and School Association.

To raise awareness of Home and School activities.

To learn about the many activities, resources, programs, Clubs and groups available to parents and children in the Greater Morell Area.

Description

We held a community fair in the gym where community organizations set up tables to offer information to parents and students about community activities such as: Sports PEI, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, karate, French Alliance, music, Home and School, etc.

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we had a fairly good turn out of parents and students. The information was good and everyone appreciated the networking opportunities. We were able to describe the mandate and activities of the Morell Home and School Association.

Who did the project benefit?

Parents and students benefited because of the fair raised awareness of community activities which contribute to the all-round growth of our children.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

Parents in Morell are still not as outwardly engaged in their children's learning as we would like. It is difficult to get them to participate in school events, despite the outreach and hard work of a few.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

The First Annual Community Fair, a collaborative effort of the Morell Home and School and Morell Consolidated School, is an example of the potential of community engagement to bring together the resources of a community. The event provided an opportunity for organizations and individuals who provide services to children, parents and their families to promote themselves and their "products". As well, it was an opportunity to heighten the awareness of the Morell Home and School Association.

This event was a unique use of the Parent Engagement Opportunities Fund. According to the evaluation of the event, parent and student attendance was "fairly good" and the information provided by organizations was good. The leaders of the Community Fair should not be discouraged in any way and remember that this was the first time it was held and that such an event has huge potential for growth.

The Morell Home and School Association has provided a model to engage the resources of government, business and the community to partner with schools and parents to assist with children's learning. The event is a fine example of how to practice the often quoted African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." We encourage the Morell Home and School to "grow" their initiative and also for other Home and Schools across the province to consider holding a similar event.