

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

September, 2009

Alberton Elementary Home and School Association

President: Kelly Herget and Sonia Wallace

Principal: Bernie Moran

Name of Project: Returning to Learning

Goal(s):

To promote the connection between learning at school with teachers and learning at home with parents.

To increase communication between parents and teachers.

Description

On the first Friday after school resumed, we held a free BBQ to welcome everyone back to our school and to encourage parents/guardians to become involved in upcoming events at their child's school. We distributed pamphlets with homework tips and information about different ways to stay involved. We also used this gathering as an opportunity to officially open our up-dated playground project which the Home and School had been working towards for the last few years.

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we had a great turn out of parents, students and staff on a beautiful September evening. We had lots of positive feedback about the opportunity to interact with staff members and parents in a relaxed atmosphere.

Who did the project benefit?

This project benefited parents by enabling them to interact with their child's teacher in an informal setting and they had a chance to see what a great school Alberton Elementary

is! Also, the children had a chance to show their parents around their school and have some informal playtime.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

Most parents are willing to help out when asked directly but still require active recruitment.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

The beginning of a school year is a major event for children, parents and families. In most cases, there is some excitement on the part of children to see friends again, experience the excitement of being in another grade and begin a new journey of discovery. For parents, it represents a bit of relief to get back to the routine of the school week as well as the recognition of the next passage leading to their child's adult life.

Starting the journey as a celebration that brings together all the stakeholders is a way to mark new beginnings. It highlights the importance of the annual fall event - start of a new school year - where for 200 days children learn how to learn, and learn about their world in a wide variety of ways.