

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

April - May, 2009

Lucy Maud Montgomery Home and School Association

President: Tina Vessey

Principal: Lois Adams

Name of Project:

Wonderful Wednesdays

Goal(s):

To give parents the tools to assist in their child's development in a variety of areas.

Description

LM Montgomery held five evening sessions for parents called, Wonderful Wednesdays.

These sessions were held each Wednesday evening in April and May at the school. Childcare and refreshments were provided.

The workshops were as follows:

- Seven Keys to Comprehension
- New Math Program
- Healthy Eating Alliance
- Anxiety in Children
- Bullying

Did you achieve your goal?

Yes, we did achieve our goal by offering a variety of topics to help educate parents.

All five workshops took place and the information provided by the resource people was current and worthwhile.

Who did the project benefit?

The project benefitted all the parents who attended each session by giving them the tools and the proper information to help educate their children. The comprehension session gave parents helpful information on the key areas of comprehension and how to use these tools to help their children comprehend what they are reading. The Healthy Eating Alliance gave helpful lunch and other meal suggestions and reviewed the Canada's Food Guide. The math session presented by Bill MacIntyre was very beneficial involving an informative math presentation and many math games that were available for the participants to take home to play with their children. The presentations on anxiety in children and bullying were also very informative. Parents were given tips on how to recognize and handle their child's anxiety and, as well, how to deal with bullying, what to do if their child is bullied or is bullying other children.

What challenges are you still facing with parent engagement?

The challenge for us was parent participation. Our first three sessions had a very low turn-out, however, the Anxiety and Bullying session had more participants. Offering baby-sitting for the parents was helpful, but we thought that it would have encouraged more participation for the first three sessions.

Thoughts about the project topic (provided by project partners)

We have all experienced information overload. This is particularly true if we don't know a lot about a topic. When the Home and School and school staff meet to choose topics and plan sessions relating to children's schooling, learning takes place at all levels.

Providing opportunities for parents to attend information sessions over a period of time increases parent learning, provides choices, expands participation, enhances dialogue between parents and the school and provides opportunities for the Home and School Association to provide leadership in parent learning.