

**Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
June, 2009**

**Gulf Shore Consolidated Home and School Association**

President: Jennifer Lidstone

Principal: Mary Jane Ready

**Name of Project:** Family Math Fun Night

**Goal(s):**

- To engage parents by allowing the students to teach math games to their parents and siblings
- To help parents become more comfortable in the school through positive experiences
- To provide a fun learning experience so that parents will feel better about all aspects of school life, both in school and at home
- To provide families with a game that will assist parents help their child at home

**Description:**

We organized an evening of math games and the students taught their parents and siblings how to play each one. We had a main coordinator for the project and students and staff helped in many ways.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes. Our goal was to have parents and students have fun playing math games together and to create a fun atmosphere in the school. Having the students become the experts really helped us achieve this goal!

**Who did the project benefit?**

The project benefitted parents, children and staff at Gulf Shore by creating a sense of community and fun.

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

We did advertise, so we did have a good turn out. However, hockey still overrules school during

the week. The disengaged parent usually has parenting issues--so they still do not show up or even see the benefit. We do hope that the positive talk about the night will build on participation for future family nights.

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

For some parents, math exists in a book. Nothing is further from the truth. Math is all around us through shapes, quantities, sizes, etc.

The home is where math can become “real.” Asking children to measure rooms, count forks, add up the number of clothes in their closet, is all math.

Math is not boring. Ask a child who makes and bakes cookies, plays a game of cards with their parents, counts the number of coins in a piggy bank, keeps a record of the number of books they have read, plans a trip--it's all math!

Math can be a family affair. Showing families how to realize this through a math fun night is a wonderful way to encourage parents to have fun with math, “outside the book.”