

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
Spring, 2009

**Parkside Elementary Home and School Association**

President Christa Campbell Blanchard

Principal: Janet Cameron

**Name of Project:**

Family Fun Night

**Goal(s):**

To have parents feel welcome and comfortable inside their school.

To have the parents interact socially with the school staff.

To give the students an opportunity to show off their school to their parents.

**Description**

An evening of fun and games was planned for parents, families, students and school staff. Refreshments were provided, door prizes were drawn for and prizes were awarded for games between families and school staff. A good time was had by all!

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, approximately 80 students and parents attended this fun-filled evening, with all the school staff involved.

**Who did the project benefit?**

The students loved having fun after hours and showing their parents around the school. Parents enjoyed the evening socializing with students, staff and each other.

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

It is difficult to have parents come forward to volunteer for events. Need to be directly asked by Home and School executive.

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

### Family Fun Night

In most cases, parents come to the school to receive a report about their child's academic progress or in some instances discuss their child's behaviour. This is not the case in family fun nights. The words family and fun mean just that; it is an opportunity for parents, their children and teachers to come together to share learning activities as equals and in a fun manner. The key to success for family fun nights is PLANNING. It is highly recommended that home and school and teachers meet together a number of times to create learning activities and approaches that are fun for everyone. Remember, children love to play as they learn - actually, so do parents!