

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund  
May, 2009

**Westwood Primary Home and School Association**

President: Janette Conklin

Principal: Charlotte Bryand

**Name of Project:**

Westwood Family Fun Night

**Goal(s):**

- To bring parents, students and staff together in an active social engagement.
- To build and foster relationships.

**Description**

The Westwood Spirit Committee actively recruited parent volunteers to work with Westwood staff in hosting its first Family Fun Night. Students, staff and parents came together and enjoyed an evening of games, activities and socializing.

**Did you achieve your goal?**

Yes, our first annual celebration surpassed all expectations; over 1400 hotdogs were distributed to family, friends and staff members of the Westwood Family. Everyone enjoyed a walk to the event and activity stations and food in a social and safe environment.

**Who did the project benefit?**

The whole school community benefited; we had grandparents, parents and children enjoy a night of great old-fashioned “play” together.

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

It's still a work in progress; the purpose from the committee's perspective was to have parents engaged in a fun activity with their own children. All the feedback from parents and staff has been nothing but positive - It was truly a successful night by all accounts.

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

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. The key to success for family fun nights is PLANNING. It is highly recommended that home and school and teachers meet a number of times together to create learning activities and approaches that are fun for everyone. Remember, children love to play as they learn – the fact, so do parents!