



CLEARMEADOW SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2009



Clearmeadow School Council

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MISSION STATEMENT

Clearmeadow School Council takes pride in uniting parents, school and community to enrich the learning environment of our students, and promote positive student learning.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

What an incredible year it's been at Clearmeadow! The School Council has once again poured its heart and soul into making 2008/09 an incredibly successful year. We continued our tradition of fully supporting the School Plan for Continuous Improvement and have, with your unwavering support of our fundraising initiatives, helped the school make important investments in literacy, technology, student leadership and activities, parent involvement and classroom support. We have also had the good fortune to be able to expand our nutrition programs to include not just the breakfast buckets, but also fresh fruit and nutritionally appropriate frozen meals, to help provide our students with the energy they need to be successful at school.

It has been my pleasure to work with an amazing group of parents this year. The passion and dedication displayed by this Council is truly inspirational. Special thanks to Michelle Rich and Sharen Pismarov, without whose unparalleled dedication and organizational skills, we would not have been able to raise the much needed funds to support all of the initiatives we did this year. Thanks to Sophia Mullin, who single handedly, organized the Pizza Lunch Program at Clearmeadow, and to her **INCREDIBLE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS** who showed up every Friday to help sort and distribute over 600 pieces of pizza every week! Also, to Susan Shaw and Lynn Conforti, for spending many long hours ensuring that our kids had the nutrition they needed to do well at school, and for spending so much time filling out funding applications and getting food to the classrooms! Thanks also to Susan for helping to organize the return of Spirit Wear to Clearmeadow! Thanks to our Community Reps, Shelley Langer, Trish Gunderson and Ron Clarke for keeping their finger on the pulse of the community, and to Monica Brown for making sure that every single penny of the money raised is respectfully cared for. Thanks to Robynne Hutton for continuing her work maintaining our fabulous website, to Marnie Clark, for making sure that every discussion we had at our meetings was accurately and eloquently documented, and to Terri Leach for making sure that every event we hosted had the **VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS** we needed to get the job done.

The Council has also been blessed to have worked with a dedicated team of teachers, administrators, office staff and custodians, without whom we would not have been able to accomplish even a fraction of what we did. Many thanks to Ann, Linda and Julie in the office, for putting up with all our questions, interruptions and tape usage. To Jamie, Wayne, Warren, Terry and Ray, for making sure that we had the tables, carts, keys and other supplies that we needed to get our job done. And extra special thanks to Lynda Hill-Oren and George Vellathottam, without whose guidance and support, we would surely have been lost.

I would especially like to thank our supportive families for allowing us to represent you this year, and I wish you all a rejuvenating and much-needed summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Heather Moffatt, Clearmeadow School Council Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Thank you to our Parent Volunteers for another wonderful year at Clearmeadow! Our school is very fortunate to have so many wonderful parents willing to share their time to help out in our school in so many ways!

Over the year you have volunteered:

- in the classrooms
- on field trips
- guided reading programs
- Dance-a-Thon
- Fundraising
- Fun Fair
- Organizing events
- Farmers Market
- Parent Council
- Library helpers
- Sports activities
- Arts activities
- Snuggle and Read program
- Yearbook
- Pizza Lunch Program

..... just to name a few!

No matter how much time you were able to share with our school, we appreciate it. There are many things that just would not have been possible without everyone's contributions and efforts throughout the school year.

As the Volunteer Coordinator I have had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful parents who have shared their generous gifts of time with the students and the school. Thank you for your commitments of time and your efforts this year. You are wonderful people and our children are lucky to have such excellent role models for community involvement and "gifts of time". Have a safe and happy summer and I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Thank you!

Terri Leach, Volunteer Coordinator

NUTRITION PROGRAM UPDATE

The School Council is very proud of what we've been able to accomplish in the area of nutrition programs for Clearmeadow. Through a generous grant, we were able to expand beyond our successful Breakfast Bucket program this year, and were able to initiate the highly popular Fruit Bowl program. Fresh fruit is made available to each classroom every Monday morning. It has been an immense pleasure to walk through the halls of Clearmeadow at the recess bell, and see huge numbers of students snacking on the fruit made available through this program!

One of the requirements Council had to meet in order to receive the grant money for nutrition programs, is that we needed to do dedicated fundraising of our own in support of the nutrition programs. We decided that the best way to support nutrition was with nutrition, so we held our first ever Clearmeadow Farmer's Market on June 12th! We had over 140 families turn out to take part, and the fruit and vegetables offered were fresh and beautiful, not to mention tasty! So much positive feedback was received that we are considering holding another market in the fall to showcase all the wonderful local harvest foods that are available. Keep your eyes open for details in September!

Our goal is to ensure that every student at Clearmeadow has the nutrition they need to be successful at school, and with the help of these nutrition programs, we feel that we're making a truly positive contribution to learning. See you next year!

Lynn Conforti and Susan Shaw, Nutrition Program Coordinators



FUNDRAISING NEWS!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Another year is coming to a close and thanks to your ongoing support of our fundraising programs this year, the School Council has been able to have a huge impact on student learning at Clearmeadow. Your fundraising dollars have generously provided technology improvements, additional instruments and music, several different literacy initiatives, classroom manipulatives, subsidized field trips, and have provided each classroom with the ability to purchase specialized books and materials to support their individual curriculum requirements. Without the fundraising dollars that have been raised, none of these things would exist for our kids.

We recognize that many of our families have been directly affected by the downturn in the economy this year. But even facing difficult times, our families have pulled together and have helped us to exceed our fundraising targets for the year, which is nothing short of amazing. We would like to thank you again for all of your support and for allowing us to raise funds on behalf of your kids.

ANOTHER FABULOUS FUNFAIR !!!

The weather was perfect, volunteers generously gave of their time, and families turned out in droves! This year's fun fair was an HUGE success, and the School Council would like to take a moment to acknowledge the individuals and companies who supported this phenomenal event.

Thank you to our Fun Fair Inflatable Sponsors for their financial contributions:

*Young Drivers
Simon Dental Centre
Paul Ireland – Century 21*

And to the following companies for their generous donations to our event:

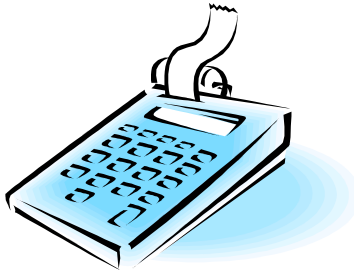
All Star Sports	Glenway Country Club	Real Canadian Superstore
Bake and Basketware	Goodlife Fitness (Newmarket)	Robinson's Karate
Blockbuster	Homecomings	Sanctuary Day Spa
Boston Pizza	McDonald's	SilverCity Newmarket
Canada's Wonderland	Merry Maids	Stellar Lanes
Ce De Candy	Moxies	Toronto Zoo - Gift Shop
Canyon Creek	Newmarket Hurricanes	Upper Canada Mall
Clearmeadow Families	NTR	Vasken Jewellers
Costco	NV Beauty	Vince's Market
The Flare Group	Ontario Science Centre	Well Rounded Kids Camp
Gabby's	Piano Studio	Zephyr's Big Band

... and especially our CLEARMEADOW VOLUNTEERS!

Your Fundraising Coordinators,

Michelle Rich
michelle.j.rich@gmail.com

Sharen Pismarov
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GETTING INVOLVED!

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”

~ Pauline R. Kezer



We all want what's best for our kids. We'll do anything to help them to be happy and successful. Then why not consider being part of the Clearmeadow School Council?

Research tells us that children do markedly better at school when their parents are directly involved in their education. What better way to be involved than to become part of a representative group of parents whose goal is to make sure that the voices of our families are heard, and that our kids' educational experience is the best it can be!

Please take a few moments this summer to consider becoming part of the Clearmeadow School Council next year. There are a number of roles you can choose from, and you will have the opportunity to work with other enthusiastic and motivated parents to make a difference at Clearmeadow. In the fall, you can either nominate yourself, or have someone else nominate you for membership on the Council. The only qualifications you need are enthusiasm, and a desire to contribute to your school community! We hope you will consider becoming part of this amazing team!

LUNCH PROGRAM UPDATE



Lunch programs at Clearmeadow have once again been a huge success. This year we were able to offer The Lunch Lady, School Lunches and Pizza Lunches to our students. The pizza lunch fundraising program raised an incredible \$13,000 for the school, which made it possible to put a significant amount of money into purchases such as laptop computers for the school. Your support of the pizza lunches, both as volunteers and as participants, was critical to the success of the program and we thank you so much for taking part.

For next year, we are pleased to announce that both The Lunch Lady and School Lunches will be returning as food services for our families, beginning October 5, 2009.

In order to once again provide Pizza Fridays, we will be looking for volunteers to step forward to run the program next year. Our goal is to have the Pizza lunches begin on October 9, 2009, which will mean that **we will need volunteers** in place within the first two weeks of school. Anyone wishing to be part of the pizza lunch fundraising team next year, especially if you think you could take on the **Pizza Lunch Coordinator** role, please contact Terri Leach at trsterri@rogers.com, or 905-853-8948 **before June 24, 2009**. That way, we can be ready to start the program in early October, for everyone's convenience.

