



CLEARMEADOW SCHOOL COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER

March 2007

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

We unite in our purpose to encourage active participation by enriching students' experiences & achievements in order that they pursue their education with enthusiasm.

March Message

One of the questions we get asked consistently is "Why do we seem to fundraise so much?" I'd like to try to answer that question.

Being part of the School Council has enlightened us to just how difficult a job it is to run a school in this day and age. Ms. Hill-Oren has been very open with us concerning the budget she is given to provide for our children each year and if you're like us, you'll be shocked to know that the board allocates only \$149 per child to cover their educational costs for the year.

Of that \$149, \$29 must be spent on textbooks, \$2.50 on physical education, and \$2.70 for the music program within the school. That leaves a mere \$115 per child to cover the rest of the materials required to run a classroom and provide an exciting education for our children. Considering that amount has to fund photocopying, art supplies and other consumables, it is a stunningly small amount to get the job done.

From the day Clearmeadow opened its doors, the School Council made a decision to become an active participant in bettering the opportunities for our children to have a positive experience at school. We felt the most direct way was to commit to financially support the school's budget and to support the school's plan for continuous improvement. The only way we can do that is through fundraising.

Each year, we allocate \$7.25 per student (\$5,000 total) to provide a classroom gift that allows every teacher to purchase much needed manipulatives and materials that their limited budget would not allow them to purchase otherwise. We allocate \$1,800 annually to clubs and the bar program. We have provided \$16,000 in the past two years alone to help upgrade and increase the number of computers in the school and expand the number of computer pods so that students have easier access to a wide variety of learning materials. We also provided the funds necessary to purchase exciting new "Smartboards" to be used within the school to make learning much more interactive. We are also proud to have been able to initiate a Breakfast Program this year, and this is just a fraction of what we have been able to do for our kids so far.

Although it may seem like you are constantly being asked for money, we have actually made a very conscious effort to limit the number of times we ask for financial support. As parents ourselves, we know that money is in tight supply for everyone. We know that each family is individual and some are much more able to support the school financially, than others. We appreciate everyone's situation and know that not every family will be able to help out on every fundraising activity. That is not what we expect, nor what we are asking.

Support of the school comes in many forms and we know that every family is doing what they can to contribute to making their children's school experience as memorable as they can. That can come in the form of volunteering in your child's classroom, being part of the School Council, coming out to presentations put on by the children, or by donating funds when you are able.

No matter which way you decide to participate, we are all on the same page. We are all trying to make our children's education exciting and fun. So have patience with us as we endeavour to help every single child at Clearmeadow Public School be the best that they can be.



Next School Council meeting:

April 11, 2007

*Please plan to attend!
Everyone is welcome.*



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Thank you for your continued support on our fundraising programs this year. We based our fundraising programs on your written feedback from our survey sent last September. Because of the school expansion due to start in May, most of our events will take place prior to the construction. We have also had to cancel this year's Family Fun Fair because of the construction.

Thanks to everyone who purchased 50/50 draw tickets during our Holiday concert last December. Congratulations to our winners and we thank you for donating to the Voices for Africa program. Your generous support raised \$152.50. The staff, teachers, and students along with the school council express our thanks to you!

Spring Fling Luau Dance-a-thon

Aloha! This year's dance-a-thon on April 20th will be the highlight of the year! Our children are learning new dance steps as part of their Physical Education Program and will get to show off their skills during the dance-a-thon. There will be daily draws for cool prizes donated by our teachers, and we will be giving out Grand Prizes for donations over \$25. We will be providing spot prizes during the dance, and every student will receive a free gift! We welcome corporate donations for our grand prizes, and prize donations would be appreciated but are not required. Watch for our flyer coming soon!

Raffle Gift Baskets

Our wonderful classroom gift baskets are back by popular demand! Raffle tickets will be sold during our Arts Nights between April 30 and May 2. After March Break, we will be asking for donations based on classroom themes. Gift baskets will be displayed in the library from April 16th to 27th. Anyone interested in helping decorate the baskets is encouraged to volunteer. More information will follow.

Maple Lodge Farms

Barbeque season is coming and we have an opportunity to stock up on some delicious foods to serve our families and friends. Watch for the upcoming brochure on May 11th. Orders will be due on May 25th with orders ready for pick-up on June 15th.

LEATHER BRACELETS

We will have customized leather bracelets available to all students for purchase. They are especially great as a gift for that special graduate! Look for information in May.

Clearmeadow Cookbook

Start looking for those special family recipes and we will start collecting them in May. Our goal is to put together a Clearmeadow Cookbook to be made available for sale next year. What a delicious way to remember our school!



SCHOOL COUNCIL FAQ'S



Committees...

Committees provide a great opportunity for parents to get involved, and you don't have to be a member of the School Council to join. Please consider sharing your talents with us.

Volunteers Needed...

If you have a couple of hours and would like to help with one of the upcoming events, please contact Shelly Langer at (905) 830-9888

slanger1@sympatico.ca

1. What exactly is the School Council?

The Clearmeadow School Council is an advisory body comprised of Parents and Staff representatives. We meet regularly to discuss school issues and to provide a forum for parents to express their ideas and suggestions on how to make the educational process a successful one. It is a separate entity from the *Student Council*, but representatives from the Student Council often attend the School council meetings.

2. What does the School Council do?

The mandate of the School Council is to provide the parent community with an opportunity to actively participate in the education process. We provide input and feedback to the school administration regarding a variety of policies and issues.

3. How often does the council meet and is it open to the public?

The School Council meets every 4 to 6 weeks (the dates are on the school website and on our bulletin board just outside the office). You do not have to be a member of the School Council to attend the meetings.

Everyone is welcome and we encourage you to attend. We need your input and ideas!

4. What has the School Council done for Clearmeadow?

In addition to providing a way for our parents to become partners in their children's education, the School Council also sets a budget every year to allow us to support areas of extreme need within the school. This comes in the form of contributing to departmental needs as well as providing the necessary funds to help the school achieve its goals as outlined in the School Plan for Continuous Improvement. In addition, we initiate special projects such as the butterfly garden, the Breakfast Program and providing for Arts in the School, that would otherwise not exist within our school. Watch for an appreciation board that will soon be displayed outside the office, showing where your donated dollars are being spent. We're sure you'll be surprised to see just how huge an impact your donations have had on our kids!

We welcome your questions and now have a suggestion box in the office where you can let us know how we can best serve your family's needs within the school.

We look forward to your questions and comments!

