

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
HOME AND SCHOOL
FEDERATION INC.**



“Conversations on Education”

56th Annual Meeting

Book of Reports

**Saturday, April 18, 2009
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel
Kent Street Charlottetown PEI**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc. exists to promote the total well-being of children and the highest standards of education for each child in the province. The Federation works in partnership with other organizations who foster this ideal. The Federation encourages and whenever possible assists in the development of policies related particularly to quality education for each child and generally to the total well-being of children in Prince Edward Island.

HOME AND SCHOOL PRAYER

“Our Heavenly Father, we pray that our endeavors may at all times be guided by Thee. Give us knowledge that our thoughts may be well directed. Give us tolerance that we may respect the rights and views of others. Imbue us with understanding and clear vision, that we may always seek the highest good for our children, our homes and our schools. And grant us wisdom that we may ever choose the right.” Amen.

HOME AND SCHOOL THOUGHT

“We hope that our endeavors may at all times be guided by wisdom! May we use knowledge so our thoughts may be well directed and that we will be tolerant. May we use understanding and clear vision, so we always seek the highest good for our children, our homes and our schools. May we always have the wisdom to choose the right.

HOME AND SCHOOL CREED

We Believe

That Home and School should be concerned with everything that relates to the welfare of the child at home, and in the community.

That Home and School’s main purpose is to bring together the home, the school, and the other educational forces in the life of the child, in order to work for the good of all children.

That Home and School should seek to learn about all conditions in the school, and in the community that affect children and youth, and encourage those which promote their growth and safety.

That Home and School work actively to promote public support for schools, so that they will be equipped with the best teachers, facilities, and other resources.

That Home and School should help parents increase their knowledge and understanding of their own role.

That Home and School should support the school in its efforts to give children and youth the education they need to become citizens who represent the best in Canadian national life.

That Home and School may question the school policies, but shall not be used as a medium for criticizing or interfering with its authority.

That Home and School’s guiding principles are those of social service, good citizenship, good will, and international peace.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION INC.
56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, April 18, 2009
RODD Charlottetown Hotel, Kent Street, Charlottetown, PEI

AGENDA

AM

- 8:20 Registration / Pick up Kits / Visit Displays
- 8:50 Welcome - Bill Whelan, President
Business Meeting - Parliamentarian: Marion Murphy
1. Adoption of Agenda 2009
 2. Adoption of Minutes 2008
 3. President's Report
 4. Adoption of Finance Report
 5. Other Reports (Accepted as circulated)
 6. Resolutions
- 10:10 Nutrition Break/View Displays
- 10:30
7. Nominations Report/Elections
 8. New Business
 9. Adjournment of Business Meeting
- 11:00 Local Association Discussion Session
- 11:50 Break for Luncheon
- PM**
- 12:00 Luncheon / Award Presentations
Education Overview -
Hon. Gerard Greenan, Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development
Greetings -
PEI Teachers Federation
PEI School Trustees Association
- 1:00 Parent Reading Coach Program
Tiffany Bastin and Valerie Delorey, Oromocto, NB
- 2:30 Closing Remarks

*NOTE: AM / PM Sessions / Displays - Victoria Room (2nd level)
Luncheon - Georgian Room (Main level)*

BUSINESS PROCEDURE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

1. The Annual General Meeting is conducted in accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws. In the case of any procedural dispute, reference shall be made to Parliamentary Procedures which is based on Robert's "Rules of Order".
2. Each Local Association may have five voting delegates, all members may attend.
3. Each voting delegate shall have one vote provided their Association Membership Fees have been paid to PEIHSF by the Annual Meeting date. Each member of the Federation's Executive and Board of Directors shall also be entitled to one vote.
4. Voting shall be by ballot or show of hands. All questions shall be decided by a majority of those voting, except those which require two-thirds (2/3) majority; the President having a deciding vote in case of a tie.
5. A delegate speaking from the floor shall address the Chair and wait to be recognized. When a sound system is being used, delegates should proceed to a microphone, then wait until the Chair indicates it is their turn to speak.
6. A delegate may not speak for more than two minutes on any question under discussion, not more than once on the same question unless requested or permitted by the Chair to clarify a point. However, the mover of a motion or resolution shall have the privilege of speaking first to begin discussion and speaking last to close debate on the question.

MEETING TIPS

1. Plan to enjoy the meetings. As a representative of your Association, it is your responsibility to help make it a success.
2. This is YOUR Annual Meeting - YOU transact the business of the Federation and set the policy to be followed in the coming year for the PEIHSF.
3. Be courteous to speakers by listening attentively. Avoid private conversations and remain seated when others are speaking.
4. Speaking from the floor - a member wishing to speak from the floor shall address the Chair, give their name in full and the name of the Association represented.
5. Do find time to exchange ideas and information. Be friendly, mix with delegates from other parts of the province. Don't wait for them to speak first. They may also be a bit shy and a first-time delegate to an Annual Meeting.
6. Say "hello" to your Board of Directors. They are elected to represent you between Annual Meetings by the Local Association members and they would like to meet you personally.
7. Do take notes in order that you may report back to your Association, the actions taken, business transacted, ideas and inspirations gained. Share information with your members - knowledge, hand-outs and other material acquired during the Annual Meeting.

Thank You!

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION INC.

EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2008-2009

EXECUTIVE:

President	Bill Whelan
Past President	Wendy MacDonal
Vice President	Jacquie Lidstone
Treasurer	Linda Dennis
Secretary	Connie Macdonald
Executive Director	Shirley Jay

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Region 1	Nicole Morrissey / Kelly Gillis
Region 2	Anna MacDonald / Angie Matheson
Region 3	Neila Auld / Tim Wartman
Region 4	Graham Hicken / One Vacancy

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION INC.

COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

2008-2009

COMMITTEE:

Department of Education Standing Committees:

1. Elementary
2. Elementary Health
3. Intermediate
4. Senior High
5. Diversity
6. Computers For Schools/Libraries
7. Special Education
8. Minister's Advisory Committee on Computer & Information Technology (C.I.T.)

Department of Health

Other:

9. Smoking Prevention
(i.e. Council for a Smoke-Free PEI & PEI Tobacco Reduction Alliance - PETRA)
10. Literacy Alliance
11. Active Living Alliance / Healthy Eating Alliance/
Youth Drug Strategy

REPRESENTATIVE:

Sue Pettit
Laura Bowness
Mary Lou Griffin-Jenkins
Anna MacDonald
- Not Active -
Shirley Jay
Kelly Gillis
Tim Wartman

Shirley Jay

Wendy MacDonald
Office receiving info

DIRECTORY OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS 2008-2009

WSB HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Alberton Elementary
Amherst Cove Consolidated
Athena Consolidated
Bloomfield Elementary
Ellerslie Elementary
Elm Street Elementary
Greenfield Elementary
Hernewood Intermediate
Kinkora High
ME Callaghan Intermediate
Miscouche Consolidated
O'Leary Elementary
Parkside Elementary
Queen Elizabeth Elementary
Somerset Elementary
St. Louis Elementary
Tignish Elementary
Westisle Composite High

PRESIDENT/CO-CHAIR

Shelley Fraser/Sonia Wallace/Kelly Herget
Bernadine Larson/Sandra Noonan
Sue Pettit
Shelley Sentner/Gwen Clements
June Ellis
Angie Matheson
Linda Celliers/Amanda Gilfoy
Colleen Parker
Patricia McKenna
Kathy Desroches/Hal Perry
Mary MacKay
Colleen MacLeod
Christa Blanchard
Pat Adams
Margie McKenna
Tish Shea
Nicole Morrissey
Myles Noye

ESD HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Belfast Consolidated
Bluefield High
Cardigan Consolidated
Central Queens Elementary
Charlottetown Rural High
Donagh Regional
Dundas Consolidated
East Wiltshire Intermediate
Eliot River Elementary &
Westwood Primary
Englewood Consolidated
Glen Stewart Elementary
Grand Tracadie Elementary
Gulf Shore Consolidated
Lucy Maud Montgomery Elementary
Montague Consolidated
Morell Consolidated
Mount Stewart Consolidated
Parkdale Elementary
Prince Street Elementary
Queen Charlotte Intermediate
Rollo Bay Consolidated
Sherwood Elementary
Southern Kings Consolidated
Spring Park Elementary
St. Jean Elementary
St. Peter's Consolidated
St. Theresa's Consolidated
Stonepark Junior High
Tracadie Cross Consolidated
Vernon River Consolidated
West Kent Elementary
West Royalty Elementary

PRESIDENT/CO-CHAIR

Anne McLeod
Phillip Connolly
Stacey Newell
Dana Coles/Basil Dickson
Lorna White/Cheryl Dalziel
Patti Shea
Kandy Johnston/Chrystal MacDonald
Michelle MacPhee/Carolyn Doyle/Connie Macdonald
Janette Conklin/Tracey Hagan-O'Connor

Bonnie Ralph
Madeleine LeGros/Sue MacLennan
Martie Murphy
Kerie Murphy
Tina Vessey
Nadine Williams
Owen Parkhouse
LaVerne MacKinnon
Jessie Frost-Wicks
Shelley Muszika
Joanne Dunn
Louise Deagle
Susie Dillon
Teresa MacKinnon
Patti Devine/Tracey Willoughby
Andrew Gass/Emery Northrup
Andrea Studzinski
Marcella Byrne
Debra Lynn Trainer/Michelle Cottreau
Eileen Gaudet
Heather Gillis
Janice Hopkirk
Trudy Loveless/Glenn McPhee

Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc.
Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting
Saturday, April 12, 2008
RODD Charlottetown Hotel

The 55th Annual Meeting of the Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation Inc. (PEIHSF) was held Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel in Charlottetown, PEI. Wendy MacDonald, President, welcomed delegates.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Wendy identified the convention kits and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The president introduced the executive members and Marion Murphy, Parliamentarian.

MOTION: To accept the 55th Annual Meeting's Agenda.
Moved by Bill Whelan. Seconded by Raymundo Yu. Motion carried.

2. ADOPTION OF THE 2007 54th ANNUAL MEETING'S MINUTES

The minutes of the 54th Annual Meeting of the PEISHF were presented as circulated.

MOTION: To accept the 54th Annual Meeting's Minutes as presented.
Moved by Anna MacDonald. Seconded by Jacquie Lidstone. Motion carried.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wendy MacDonald, President, expressed her regrets as president of her last meeting. She thanked her wonderful executive and knows that they will continue the great work of the Federation. See full report of Book of Reports, page 12.

MOTION: To accept the President's report as circulated.
Moved by Wendy MacDonald. Seconded by Linda Dennis. Motion carried.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Linda Dennis, Treasurer, presented the PEIHSF Finance Report for the year ending December 31, 2007, as circulated.

Total Revenue	\$58,721	
Total Expenditures	\$57,467	
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 1,254	
Statement of Financial Position, Year-End	\$67,007	

MOTION: To adopt the Financial Report as presented.
Moved by Mike Ramsay. Seconded by Teresa MacKinnon. Motion carried.

5. OTHER REPORTS

Other reports were included in the 2008 Book of Reports.

Wendy MacDonald, President, expressed her thanks to the board members for their committee work. She mentioned that the Department of Education now reimburses members for Standing Committee Meeting attendance with an honourarium of \$50/half day, \$100/full day plus travel.

Wendy introduced Bill Whelan, Incoming President, to the podium to present his report on Parent Engagement – pages 16-17 of Book of Reports.

Bill presented the Parent Engagement report as circulated and showed a mockup of a new website that will be ready for an official launch in September.

MOTION: To accept reports as presented.

Moved by Brenda Powell. Seconded by Laurie MacDonald. Motion carried.

Stephen Cousins was invited to the podium to chair the resolutions portion of the meeting.

6. RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions are included in the convention package and must be moved to the floor for discussion.

Resolution 1/08 PUBLIC SCHOOL-BASED KINDERGARTEN

Submitted by Athena Home and School Association

WHEREAS the social preparation of students and the progress of their learning is to a great extent dependent on and enhanced by the way they were introduced into the education process; and

WHEREAS the effects of the disparity in levels of education upon entering the public school system follows a child through their education; and

WHEREAS in all provinces except PEI, this introduction to the education system takes place through a publicly funded, public school based kindergarten; and

WHEREAS kindergarten in PEI is publicly funded and guided by a provincial curriculum, but is delivered through a community-based system of private and non-profit facilities; and

WHEREAS declining enrolment has created the capacity within the education system to accommodate additional students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation request the Department of Education to take the necessary steps to develop and implement a publicly funded school-based full-day kindergarten program within PEI's education system by the year 2010.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 1/08

Moved by Kerie Murphy. Seconded by Anna MacDonald.

MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2/08 POLICY FOR EXTENDED INTERRUPTION OF CLASSES DURING MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS DUE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

Submitted by Englewood, Eliot River/Westwood, Gulf Shore Home and School Associations and Bluefield Parent Council

WHEREAS successful outcomes for Intermediate School (Grade 9) and Senior High School examinations are crucial for subsequent grade courses, entrance to post secondary studies and scholarships; and

WHEREAS extended interruption of a student's preparation for these examinations due to unavoidable circumstances such as storms and power outages can have a negative impact on scholastic outcomes; and

WHEREAS all Island students should be provided a consistent policy for School Boards to

respond to such situations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that PEIHSF recommend to the Department of Education and to the various school boards that current policies be amended or new policies be developed as required to ensure that, if an extended period of school closures occur during Mid-Term and Final Exams time frames, due to weather, power outages, etc. both at home and in school, that examinations will be rescheduled in a consistent manner to ensure the students can adequately prepare.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 2/08
Moved by Bonnie Wright. Seconded by Sandy Nicholson.
MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 3/08 POLICY FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COACH TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation Board

WHEREAS physical activity is essential to the well-being and healthy development of children and youth; and

WHEREAS sport is a key form of physical activity, and also contributes to the social and personal development of children and youth through development of values and ethical standards, interpersonal and leadership skills, lifelong friendships, teamwork skills, self-discipline, and self-esteem and a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS coaches play a core role in realizing these benefits for children and youth through the way in which they carry out their role; and

WHEREAS negative experiences with coaches may have lasting harmful effects on children's well-being, self-esteem, and participation in sport; and

WHEREAS current policies pertaining to the role of volunteers in schools are very broad, placing extensive discretion with the principal regarding screening, roles, activities, and requirements; and

WHEREAS the safe and healthy development of children and youth requires that volunteer coaches be of good character, be familiar with and consistently use positive and supportive coaching techniques and philosophies, and model high standards of ethics, respect, and sportsmanlike behavior;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that minimum standards for coach training and certification be established for all volunteers and teachers coaching sport in the school setting, and that the PEIHSF partner with the PEI Department of Education, School Boards, the PEI School Athletic Association and the Provincial Sport Organizations to develop such standards.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards
PEI School Athletic Association

MOTION: To approve Resolution 3/08
Moved by Stephen Cousins. Seconded by Jacquie Lidstone.
MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 4/08 SCHOOL LOCKDOWN POLICY
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation Board

WHEREAS violent incidents and violent intruders in the school environment pose a significant risk to the safety of students; and
WHEREAS emerging best practice to deal with a threat of violence in the school environment consists of lockdown procedures to secure students and staff in the classrooms, rather than school evacuation; and
WHEREAS other jurisdictions have established or are in the process of establishing lockdown policies and procedures; and
WHEREAS in PEI, existing emergency procedures and drills only pertain to evacuation of schools; and
WHEREAS work is currently in progress by police and boards in PEI to develop lockdown procedures and policies; and
WHEREAS such policies and procedures, although necessary for the safety of our children, must be designed and implemented in such a way as to minimize their traumatic effects and to avoid creating a climate of fear among students;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF seek to participate in the process of developing and implementing such policies to ensure that they safeguard our children as fully as possible while minimizing any negative impacts on their emotional well-being.
DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 4/08
Moved by Bill Whelan. Seconded by Jacquie Laird.
MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 5/08 DECLINING ENROLMENT
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation Board

WHEREAS enrolment in Island schools is in the midst of a long-term decline, from 24,000 in 2000-01 to 21,000 in the current year, to a projected 17,000 a decade hence; and
WHEREAS declines are taking place unevenly across PEI schools as population shifts from rural to urban areas; and
WHEREAS the Department of Education has tendered a major study on the issue of changing enrollments and how the projected future trends will impact on all Island schools and to develop options that could be implemented to deal with the anticipated future enrollments; and
WHEREAS the second phase of this work is to consist of a series of public consultations to inform the public about the anticipated impacts of changing enrollment, and to gauge public interest and support for the various options contained in the report; and
WHEREAS this process may result in significant changes to the number of schools across PEI and to public investment in education;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation supports the development of criteria for system change which place top priority on providing the best possible learning opportunities to our children; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any savings realized as a result of system change be reinvested in education rather than shifted to another area of public expenditure.
DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 5/08

Moved by Bill Whelan. Seconded by Linda Dennis.
MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 6/08 RESOURCES TO MEET NEEDS ARISING FROM CHANGE TO AGE OF SCHOOL ENTRY
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation Board

WHEREAS the Department of Education has recently announced a decision to change the cut-off date for age of school entry from August 31 to October 31, effective in the 2008-09 school year; and
WHEREAS this measure means that approximately 260 children born in September and October 2002 will now be eligible to attend school in September 2008; and
WHEREAS some of those children will be enrolled by their parents, and will have had only three months of kindergarten preparation or none at all; and
WHEREAS this change will result in an age range of 14 months in next year’s Grade One cohort, which will endure throughout their school experience; and
WHEREAS it is probable that a higher than average proportion of these new students will require additional supports and resource given their younger age and lower level of preparation; and
WHEREAS school staffing allocations had already been established before this decision was taken;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Education invest additional bridging resources in teaching, Reading Recovery, and other resources as needed to ensure that the needs of both these additional students and of previously enrolled students are fully met, and that they are as fully prepared as possible for the remainder of their school experience.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
 School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 6/08
Moved by Lisa MacDougall. Seconded by Linda Dennis.
MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution #7 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING ALLOCATION
Submitted by Glen Stewart Home and School Federation

WHEREAS the Glen Stewart Home and School Association was approached by staff at Glen Stewart School to purchase reading materials for the classroom, and
WHEREAS during the meeting of January 22nd, 2008, Glen Stewart Home and School Association approved Glen Stewart School's request and committed \$10,500 for the purchase of class book sets, and
WHEREAS the general consensus of the Glen Stewart Home and School Association is that fund-raising efforts should not be spent on textbooks and other curriculum-related materials, and
WHEREAS the Glen Stewart Home and School Association feels that it is the responsibility of the Department of Education to provide equal learning opportunities for all island students, regardless of school size, by providing a suitable amount of learning materials for each classroom,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT textbooks and other such classroom learning

materials provided by the Department of Education be allocated to schools based on school population and classroom size, thus providing the resources required so that every island child receives an equal opportunity to learn and grow.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Childhood Development
School Boards

MOTION: To approve Resolution 7/08

Moved by Angela Blanchard. Seconded by Jennifer Pitre.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. NOMINATION REPORT/ELECTIONS

Martha Ellis, Past President and Nominations Chair, announced committee members Stephen Cousins and Jacquie Lidstone. She presented the proposed slate of officers for 2008-2009 and called for further nominations for the floor. There were no further nominations. The following officers stand with vacancies to be filled by the PEIHSF Board.

<u>Executive/Board Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Executive:		
President	Bill Whelan	2010 (Two year term)
Vice President	Jacquie Lidstone	2010 (Two year term)
Regional Directors:		
Region 1	Nicole Morrisey	2009 (One year term)
Region 1	Kelly Gillis	2010 (Two year term)
Region 2	Vacant	2010 (Two year term)
Region 3	Tim Wartman	2010 (Two year term)
Region 3	Neila Auld	2009 (One year term)
Region 4	Vacant	2010 (Two year term)

MOTION: To accept the 2008 Nomination Report as presented.

Moved by Martha Ellis. Seconded by Linda Dennis.

MOTION CARRIED.

The new board was sworn in by Marion Murphy, Parliamentarian.

8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Wendy MacDonald declared the business meeting adjourned.

10. NUTRITION BREAK

Wendy invited meeting attendees to the Kent Room for the nutrition break and to view displays set up by businesses and non-profit organizations.

11. PRESENTATIONS

Wendy presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Rhoda Spear of West Kent Elementary. Thank you gifts were presented to Martha Ellis, Stephen Cousins and Lisa MacDougall. Gifts will be presented to those departing members who were not in attendance at today's meeting: Scott Lundrigan, Ruth Morrison and Joy Shinn.

12. INTRODUCTION TO NEW PEIHSF WEBSITE

Bill Whelan, in-coming President, presented a mock-up of the new PEIHSF website. There will be an official launch in September.

13. PANEL: HEALTH, LEARNING AND SAFETY

Jacquie Lidstone, in-coming Vice President, facilitated the panel. She introduced the panelists and their topics as follows: Sandy MacDonald, Superintendent, Eastern School District - *How Are Our Children Doing?*; Jo-anne Wallace, Provincial Coaching Western Region Coordinator, *Is Sport Living Up To Its Potential?*; and Anna MacDonald, PEIHSF Board, *Parenting the Net Generation*. A brief question and answer period followed the presentations. Appreciation was given to the participants and thank you gifts were presented to the panel members.

14. LUNCHEON

Greetings were brought by Honorable Gerard Greenan, Minister of Education and Attorney General; Jay Gallant, PEI School Trustees Association; Rebecca Rioux, PEI Teacher's Federation.

Special guests were Past Presidents of the PEI Home and School Federation from 1953-2008 including:

Eric Kipping (1961-1962)
Hesta MacDonald (1965-1967)
Dr. Karl Winter (1972-1974,1975-1976,1978-1979)
Wayne MacKinnon (1976-1978)
Stan Warwick (1979-1981)
Lorne Morell (1981-1982)
Marion Murphy (1986-1988)
Marjorie Stevenson-Dawson (1990-1992)
Georgina Allen (2000-2002)
Ken Williams (2002-2004)
Martha Ellis (2004-2006)
Wendy MacDonald (2006-08)

During the luncheon, Hesta MacDonald was presented with the Life Membership Award. A group photograph was taken of all past presidents in attendance.

Wendy MacDonald was presented with a gift with thanks for her service as president. Shirley Jay was also presented with a gift of appreciation for her continued work and dedication with the PEI Home and School Federation.

Marjorie Stevenson-Dawson expressed her appreciation, on behalf of the past presidents, for being included in today's luncheon.

Respectfully submitted by,

Connie Macdonald
Recording Secretary

**Prince Edward Island Home and School Federation
Bill Whelan, President**

Over the past year the PEI Home and School Federation has worked to promote and support parent involvement in their children's learning and in the education system as a whole. The federation's top priority was to remind Islanders that the Home and School message is about education, and that our primary role is to advocate for "the highest standards of education for each child in the province." This message was well received by parents, teachers, educators and our elected officials. This year the Federation is proud to represent parents at 51 schools across PEI.

A highlight of the past year was in October when the Federation officially launched our provincial Parent Engagement Strategy with a press conference that was attended by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, members of the Federation Board, President of the PEI Teachers' Federation, School Board Superintendents, parents, children, our development partners Mait MacIssac and Sandy Rendall and the media. The strategy was crafted in 2007 by then President Wendy MacDonald and provided with \$50,000 in funding from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. At the launch event, Minister Greenan announced additional funding of \$50,000 for 2008/09 to support our efforts on parent engagement. The overall vision of the strategy is to create collaborative parent-student-teacher learning environments at home and in the school so our children can reach their full potential as individuals, as students and as citizens.

To achieve this vision and to support our collective voice as parents on issues related to children's learning and well being, the Federation has been active on a number of fronts.

**WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

School Trustee Elections: During trustee elections the Department asks the Federation to help with communications and to help candidates get their messages out. In May 2008 the Federation was busy working on promotions for the school trustee elections, which included newspaper advertisements and working with local associations across the province to help organize "meet the candidates nights" in the zones where elections were held. The Federation compiled a document outlining some issues and concerns raised by parents around the election process. There is a need to improve communication between trustees and parents, which will go a long way to strengthening the connection between home and school. The Federation will work with the government to help improve the process for the next election.

Consultations: Throughout the year the Federation was asked to provide input on new programs and initiatives being developed at the Department. In April 2008, the Federation was invited to review a new Senior High School Model which introduces new opportunities / modes of curriculum delivery for high school students. Home and School Association Presidents/Co-Chairs were asked to discuss this information with their Home and School members and forward any comments to the provincial office. The Federation was highly supportive of the flexible class scheduling, enhanced community

based learning opportunities and enhanced student-teacher mentoring proposed in the new model. Parents, through the Federation, were also invited to provide input on a new Instructional Staffing Model for elementary / secondary school levels. The Federation asked parents to focus on priority areas for improvement. Parents responded that the current student-teacher ration of 22:1 in grades 1-3 is not realistic and should be reduced. In addition, some parents felt that the current model does not adequately address the need for teacher resources for EAL students. The Federation's position papers on these two models can be found on our website ("Taking Action" page).

Provincial Common Assessments: In October, the Federation was invited to meet with the Deputy Minister and senior education staff in advance of the release of the provincial common assessment tests to discuss how best to communicate the test scores to parents. In March 2009, in partnership with Cindy Woods (Program Evaluation and Student Assessment), the Federation asked 7 parents to participate in a focus group to review the assessment report card. Parents found that the "check box" format for the grade 3 and 6 assessment report (i.e. Experiencing Success, Approaching Success, Experiencing Difficulty, etc.) was not informative. Parents recommended that the report card be revised to include a percentage score (if available) for their child, the provincial average score, information on the format of the test and guidance on who to speak with if they have concerns about their child's performance. These recommendations will be implemented by the Department this year.

Meeting with the Minister and Deputy Minister: On October 16th at Central Queen's Elementary School, Hunter River, the Federation hosted the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development at our Semi-Annual provincial meeting. About 40 home and school members attended to discuss resolutions passed at the April 2008 Annual Meeting and many other issues of importance, including school fees and lockdowns. This open and candid dialogue is a hallmark of the positive working relationship between the Federation and our Minister / Deputy Minister.

WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL BOARDS

Engaging Principals: In November the Federation was invited to speak with principals and school trustees from the Western School Board on ways to improve parent involvement in their children's learning. As part of a facilitation session, principals suggested ways parents can get more involved this year, such as having a first day of school barbeque, improving two-way communications, encouraging parents to participate in the school and providing more opportunities for parents to help with literacy and numeracy outcomes. It was clear that principals welcome more parent participation. In February, the Federation presented to principals in the Eastern School District, who responded positively to our ongoing parent engagement initiatives. Parents through their local Home and School association are encouraged to continue this conversation with your principal to see what will work in your school.

Engaging Trustees: The Federation is currently working with the Executive of the ESD Trustees to improve communications between parents and trustees, and to better define for parents the role of a trustee. In April 2009, the Federation was invited to present its vision of Home and School and parent engagement to the PEI School Trustees Association, representing all 29 trustees from the English and French language school boards.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

New Federation Website: In October, the Federation launched its new website (www.edu.pe.ca/peihsf/). For the first time our print materials are available on-line, such as brochures on why join home and school, helping with homework and preparing for parent-teacher interviews. The website also includes a News and Events section to better inform parents about education initiatives and events taking place in their local school communities. The Taking Action section describes our advocacy efforts including home and school resolutions and position papers. The Resources pages continue to grow and provide links for parents with information on literacy, numeracy, education partners, health and safety, and more. The new website will go along way to improving communications among local Home and School associations. To help promote the website the Department of Education and Early Childhood designed and paid for fridge magnets that were handed out to all local associations.

On-Line Survey on Parent Engagement: In October, the Federation launched an on-line survey for parents developed in partnership with Vicki Bryanton. The survey was designed to identify how parents are currently involved in their children's learning and what barriers parents may face at home and in the school. Questions dealt with communications, parent-teacher meetings, volunteering, special needs, and instructional time and homework. A total of 704 surveys were completed representing 1,234 school-aged children. The results are published on our website and will be used to enable changes needed within the system to facilitate and encourage more parent involvement.

School Action for Emergencies (SAFE) Program: In September, the Federation participated in the first SAFE lockdown exercise at Charlottetown Rural. SAFE will allow police and emergency services to respond quickly to a threat or violent incident in or near the school. In response to some parents concerns around lockdown drills and the potential negative effect it may have on young children, the Federation wrote to the superintendents of the Eastern and Western school boards requesting that a comprehensive board-wide communications plan be developed that clearly identifies the role and responsibilities of parents around lockdowns, and informs parents on how best to support their children before and after a drill. The superintendents' responses can be found on our website ("Taking Action" page).

In The News: At the provincial level the Federation is a strong voice for parents within the education system. To strengthen this voice and to elevate the importance of education issues, the Federation engages and utilizes the media. The Federation's interactions with the media include a monthly news column "Home and School and You" (published in the Guardian) which is also sent to all local home and school associations and our education partners. In addition, over the past year the Federation has issued a number of press releases individually and with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and has participated in media interviews on subjects including school bus safety, trustee elections, school organizational plans and lockdowns.

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND WELL-BEING

Education Standing Committees/School Board Committees: The Federation is invited to provide home and school parent representatives for all Department of Education standing committees and when required, for school board committees. In October, the Federation invited parents from our membership to consider some of these positions. We were pleased with the interest and responses, which left us with more resumes than positions. This is a great learning opportunity for parents to find out more about PEI's education system. The list of current parent representatives and their committee reports can be found in this Annual Report. A big thank you to all the members who are volunteering to be the voice of parents on these committees.

Verbal Abuse Prevention Week: This past year, the Federation partnered with Tami Martell, an Island mother of six, and advocate for raising awareness of bullying and other forms of verbal abuse. As a result of this partnership, P.E.I. Premier Robert Ghiz, declared the week of October 5-11, 2008 as Verbal Abuse Prevention Week, and urged all citizens to consider the impact of their words, and to support those who have been verbally abused or who have experienced violence in their lives.

EXPANDING PARENT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund: Following on the success of the pilot projects last year, the Federation launched a new Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund (PEOF) in February. Grants of up to \$350 are available to schools in the province's three school boards to help fund events, projects or training in support of parent engagement. Submissions will be accepted from school-based parent groups including home and school associations and school councils until mid-June 2009, with projects to be completed by August 31. The Federation organized two well-attended PEOF workshops in Summerside and Charlottetown to discuss the application process and project ideas. These sessions were facilitated by our development partners, Mait MacIssac and Sandy Rendall from Learning and Reading Partners.

RECOGNIZING SPECIAL PEOPLE

Bus Driver Awards: During National School Bus Safety Week in October, the Federation honored two bus drivers, Clifford Affleck from Mt. Stewart Consolidated and Mike Gaudet from Athena Consolidated with our annual Bus Driver Awards. The award honours a bus driver in the Prince Edward Island school system for outstanding service in keeping children safe as they travel to and from school each day.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week/Extra Mile Awards: In February during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, the Federation presented 2009 Extra Mile Awards to Anne Farrell-Gaudet and Susan Keizer. Anne was honored for her years of commitment to literacy programs at Parkside Elementary School. Susan was honored for her commitment to both the academic and social development of students at Tracadie Cross Consolidated. Letters of support written by their students were read during the school receptions and there wasn't a dry eye in the gym.

Retiring Federation Board Members: Four members are completing their terms this year and they deserve our thanks and appreciation for the many contributions made during their time on the provincial board.

Linda Dennis – Treasurer
Connie MacDonald – Secretary
Anna MacDonald – Director, Region 2
Graham Hicken – Director, Region 4

In closing, I want to extend my thanks to our continuing board members for their hard work and commitment to Home and School. Finally, a VERY BIG THANK YOU to our Executive Director, Shirley Jay. This has been a busy year for Shirley, especially working with a President that has a hard time making deadlines. Her energy and creativity seems to be endless, and her rapport with people is remarkable. For more than 25 years Shirley has been the soul of the Federation and we owe much of our collective success to her dedicated service to Home and School.

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM STANDING COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Sue Pettit

Summary of meeting held on February 18, 2009 at the Belle Alliance facility in Summerside:

§ **Math Update:** The committee endorsed the recommendation by Bill McIntyre, Elementary Math and Science Specialist, to implement the restructured mathematics curriculum and authorize *Math Makes Sense* (eastern edition) as the Primary resource at Grade 1 and 4. All pilot work has resulted in very positive feedback for this curriculum and text.

§ **Communications and Information Technology Update:** Greg Bungay, Elementary Technology Specialist, introduced the software program, *Arc Explorer*. The program allows students, teachers, and parents to work with maps, and to layer it with other data and information. It is a free download, available at http://www.edu.pe.ca/journeyon/pro_d_pages/gis/explorer1.htm

§ **Language Arts Update:** Robyn McAulay, Grades 1-3 Language Arts Specialist, passed around resources used in conjunction with the *Literacy Place for the Early Years* program, which was piloted by 11 teachers this past year. A motion was passed to implement the program in Fall 2009. For grades 4-6, a new committee will be struck to review a new Grade 4 resource for Language Arts.

§ **Student Support Services Update:** Karen Gaudet, Student Support Specialist, stated that a document would be completed by the end of February, outlining resources available (by order) to assist teachers with all non-curricular aspects of their teaching (e.g. EAL, healthy eating, autism support, etc.). Karen also passed around new resources she has, many of which can be borrowed from her lending library.

§ **Health Update:** PEI now has a new Health curriculum for grades 4-9, comprised of three strands: Wellness Choices, Relationship Choices, and Life Learning Choices. A new resource, from the United States, was ‘Canadianized’ and purchased for use in grades 4-6 classrooms. *Leaps and Bounds*, adopted from Alberta, will be used as a teacher resource guide. The Human Sexuality Program in grades 5-6 will be replaced by a DVD-based segment of the new curriculum resource.

§ **Physical Education Update:** A committee has been formed to discuss what is safe in physical education, to review an Ontario document, and to review what other provinces are doing in physical education curriculum. The results of these activities will help to guide development of new curriculum for PEI. It is likely that there will be a shift of focus from learning pure sport, to include more emphasis on the importance of lifelong fitness activities.

§ **Primary Literacy Intervention Program (PLIP) Update:** This 5-week, intensive Language Arts program helps children in grades 2/3 to attain grade level expectations. Very positive results attained to date!

§ **Social Studies Update:** A new program was developed on PEI by both French and English

programs, and features a new book, *PEI History*. The book covers half of the grade 6 Social Studies year, while *World Cultures* is studied for the remaining half year.

§ **Provincial Primary and Elementary Language Arts and Primary Math Assessment Update:** The May assessment will be developed shortly, based on results of field testing completed this winter. Some discussion was held around improved communication with parents regarding interpretation of results for this form of testing.

§ **Kindergarten Update:** Tracey Anderson, English Kindergarten Specialist, reported that curriculum writing is complete. She passed around a reference handbook, developed by her group, for parents of all new kindergarten students. *Welcome to Kindergarten*, a national program, will be started as a way to have parents involved with their child entering kindergarten. The program emphasizes learning areas to develop literacy skills. Each child will receive a bag with crayons, paper, plasticine, books, and a calendar, developed in conjunction with *Staples*, that suggests activities parents can do to support their child's learning literacy. Kudos to Tracey and her group for incorporating parents, as integral players, into the development of kindergarten curriculum and process!!

§ **EBSCO Update:** This website search engine for kids is available through our schools. It is a great research tool for upper elementary students, accessible from home too. Statistics indicate it is not used widely. It is an expensive service, so let's use it before we lose it!

**INTERMEDIATE STANDING COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Mary Lou Griffin-Jenkins**

The Intermediate Standing Committee met twice this year: October 28, 2008 (Centre Belle Alliance, Summerside) and February 5, 2009 (Best Western, Charlottetown). A third meeting will occur on May 6 at Centre Belle Alliance. Clayton Coe, Secondary Education Coordinator, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, is the committee chair.

The following items have been discussed:

Physical Education

- a. Two meetings so far of the Phys Ed Safety Guidelines Committee. Working with the Ontario Phys Ed Safety Guidelines handbook to create one for PEI.
- b. There is a need to revise PE courses at all levels. A focus group will be formed soon to recommend the revisions that need to take place at the intermediate level.

English Social Studies

- a. Grade 9 social studies needs to be revised due to shifts in content in grade 7 and 8 social studies courses. New learning outcomes have been identified and the curriculum guide will be produced next.

3. Standard assessment schedule:

- a. French and English Intermediate Math Assessment – June 11, 2009
- b. French and English PISA 2009 – April – May 2009

4. Student Services – (Sterling Carruthers, Judy MacDougall, Peter Meggs)

- a. SHAPES (School Health Action, Planning and Evaluation System), province-wide Breakfast Program, PEI Youth Substance Use and Addictions Strategy and Take Our Kids to Work Day are some of the programs that this group works on.

5. Mathematics – (Blaine Bernard)

- a. Grade 7 curriculum is being piloted at Hernewood, Athena, Stonepark and St. Peters – going well. Implementation is set for September 2009.
- b. Grade 8 curriculum may be implemented in September 2009 without piloting. It is very similar to and uses a resource that matches that of Grade 7.
- c. Grade 9 curriculum will be piloted in 2010 – 2011.
- d. Pilot schools are selected in conjunction with the school boards.

6. Computer and Information Technology (CIT) – (Greg Bungay)

- a. Focus continues on developing modules of 15 – 25 hours in length on a variety of technologies/software.
- b. Implemented Modules: Desktop Publishing and Audio
- c. Field Test Modules: Digital Photography and Programming/Logic
- d. To be Field Tested: Designing (Google Sketch Up), Web Page Design (Dreamweaver) and HTML
- e. To be developed: Digital Video and Animation

- f. Field test schools: Montague Intermed, Souris Cons and Summerside Intermed.
 - g. Schools using Desktop Publishing and Audio: East Wiltshire and Athena
 - h. Amherst Cove and Morell High will begin using modules in Sept. 2009
 - i. Other schools interested in adopting these modules should indicate their interest. There are funds available to prepare the school to implement these learning modules for students.
7. Health/Career Education – (Mike Leslie and Lorie MacPherson)
- a. In-servicing continues to support the 2007 implementation at all levels.
 - b. There is a focus on the Life-Work Portfolio introduced in grade 7 Health. Students can create an electronic portfolio, using Career Cruising, which they can continue to work on throughout their schooling.
 - c. Details of CEO 401A were shared. This Sr. high course compliments the “life learning choices” component in grade 7, 8 and 9 health curriculum.
8. Career and Technical Education – (John Stephens)
- a. An ad hoc committee was established to address the revision and updating of the Intermediate Technology education curriculum and the development of learning modules. This committee met on Nov 20 and Feb 24. Team consists of John Stephens, Greg Bungay, Craig Taggart, Carl Evans, Tracey MacDonald, Jamie Ramsay and Carl Arnold.
 - b. Work thus far consists of reviewing and reorganizing existing outcomes so that they support the GCOs in the Tech Ed Foundation Document. Later work will include developing Design Briefs for student projects like the CO2 Dragster, Safety, Jewelry Making and Drafting/Design.
9. Language Arts – (Jarmo Puiras)
- a. Grade 9 CAMET (Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training) Writing and Reading Standards – are being in-serviced this winter and spring.
 - b. Resource Renewal Committee – a motion to form this committee was passed at the February meeting. This committee will review resources available and recommend those to be used in the pilot and later for implementation.
10. English as an Additional Language – Vicki Whitlock
- a. A committee was established in Sept 2009 whose main responsibility is to develop a handbook to support all teachers of EAL students at the intermediate level.
 - b. Sections of the guide will be field tested prior to Sept 2009.
 - c. Pilot – Sept 2009/January 2010
 - d. Implementation – Sept 2010
11. Visual Arts
- a. In the first year of the implementation of the Intermediate Arts curriculum. Schools that choose to offer this curriculum will be supported with a one-time start-up funding allocation, texts and in-servicing.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
SENIOR HIGH STANDING COMMITTEE
Anna MacDonald**

This year I had the privilege of being a member of the Senior High Standing Committee representing the Home and School.

The membership included teachers, administrators, and consultants. The mandate of the committee is to essentially to coordinate, report, review and revise High School curriculum. I found the meetings I attended to be interesting and informative.

The members hold the education of our students in high regard and work hard to attain the best results for our students. There is an incredible amount of work that goes into researching and providing the necessary curriculum for our students that not only enables them to learn but prepares them for further learning.

Many committees and long hours go into the curriculum and the material our students use as text books. This continual assessment of our school's courses and materials helps keep our students learning what and how they should be.

It is an ongoing process that requires continual renewal. It is with new appreciation that I say thank you to those whose jobs it is to do this.

**ELEMENTARY HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Laura Bowness**

Grade 4-6 health curriculum committee:

- Over the summer new textbooks were customized by McGraw Hill and Canadianized, as much as possible.
- Sexuality DVDs (one is 19 minutes and the other is 15 minutes) were reviewed by committee members and added to the curriculum. I found them very well done and informative.
- In-servicing days for each grade are hopefully happening in February if we don't have too many storm days.

Although the committee has had a few meetings we have kept in touch by e-mail and Lori MacPherson has done a great job keeping me informed of the roll-out of the new program.

**EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT LITERACY ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE
R. Blake Jelley, Ph.D.**

The Eastern School District Literacy Action Plan Committee met on February 6, 2009. At the half-day meeting the mandate and process of the committee was discussed. The mandate of this committee is to establish a framework for district-wide literacy initiatives.

The initial plan to conclude the committee's work by June 2009 was changed in early March. I expect we will meet again in May, but the committee's work will continue beyond June.

Submitted: March 9, 2009

**MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Tim Wartman

In 2002, the Department of Education drafted a Strategic Plan on Communications and Information Technology (CIT) in the Public School System with a mission to make CIT “an integral part of the PEI public school system, contributing to student learning outcomes in grades 1-12.” This document is available on the Dept.’s website: http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/ed_cit_plan_eng.pdf

Currently, the PEI Home and School Federation is represented on the 12-member Minister’s Advisory Committee on Communications and Information Technology (CIT) whose mandate is to facilitate the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and to make recommendations to the Minister of Education.

The committee discussed the department of education’s word processing software move from WordPerfect to Microsoft Office and the effect it would have on staff and students (this will affect approximately 1850 users). Overall, it was determined that the move would not negatively affect students as most use the MS product at home. Other concerns identified were the transfer of files, storage and access to MS software at home for teachers. There could be a transition year where teachers would have access to both WordPerfect and MicroSoft Office to facilitate the transfer of documents.

A list of Information Technology Shared Services (ITSS) priorities was circulated and priority items include: Bandwidth increases / encryption software / groupwise client for teachers / Student Achieve system and a variety of other items.

Distance Education has been taking place in some high schools. The department of education is currently working on an MOU with NB for access to distance education courses. Students are able to participate in courses from other schools (i.e. advanced math, physics, Spanish) that might not otherwise be available in smaller, rural schools.

Students Achieve System (SAS) is being implemented in several schools. The program was originally developed as a mark management system then expanded to accommodate attendance recording, and creating digital report cards for elementary students. Some schools are also using SAS to communicate with students and parents. The department of education has requested that schools provide attendance information and SAS makes this task more effective. The Students Achieve Provincial Committee is trying to compile information on the implementation of SAS. This could include surveys, focus groups and meetings. The committee will also make recommendations on direction and process to move forward. The website allows teachers to input marks, attendance, course curriculum and also allows parents to log in to view students progress. Future developments include email notifications to parents, data collection and analysis for teachers/schools/school boards as well as standardized electronic report cards. The website can be viewed at <https://sas.edu.pe.ca>

If you have any questions or comments about this committee, you can contact Tim Wartman at twartman@gmail.com

**SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Kelly Gillis

I had the honour of representing Home and School on this committee which met on November 27, 2008 and February 19, 2009 with Peter Meggs, Department of Education, chairing the meetings. This standing committee is made up of representatives from WSB, ESB, French School Board, teachers, guidance counselors, resource teachers, administrators and Home and School. At every meeting there are invited guests to update, inform, and educate on different programs, services, opportunities, initiatives that are being undertaken to enrich learning services for students requiring extra resources.

The following is an overview of meeting presentations/discussions.

Speech Language Pathologist. Speech Language is under the Department of Health for children ages 7 and under and does not come under the Dept. of Education until grade 3. There is a shortage of speech language pathologists under each department and children with early speech problems are not being attended to and very sparingly when they do. There is a big push by the department to come up with a strategy for this especially once kindergarten comes under Dept. of Education.

Role of the resource teacher. There are varying duties and slight variations on the type of resource teachers within the system. There are Workplace attendants, Educator Assistants, Student Attendants. For many, their role is direct instruction when a bigger role should be in consultation and assessment. There is still issues around what is “adapted” vs. “modified” programs.

A grade 10/11 Literacy Course that is a credit course for those students who do not fit in resource or general/practical English courses. This is soon to be piloted. The concern was the number of students who get to that point because there is no effective “resource” for students at the lower grades and students with literacy issues are just being “bumped” ahead with their peers and will become disengaged in the whole education system.

Presentations were made by Citizen Advocacy; Council of People with Disabilities; Career Education Initiatives; different Assistive Technology available to students; and a masters program in inclusive education that will see its first graduates in Dec. 2010. There was also a masters thesis presentation on a case study of inclusive education service delivery in PEI Eastern School District which looked at the present level of inclusive education and the challenges to providing an effective inclusive education for Eastern School District.

I enjoyed my role on this committee and hope that I can bring some issues that Home and School have to the table during the next year.

COUNCIL FOR A SMOKE-FREE PEI

Shirley S. Jay

The Council for a Smoke Free PEI has been working for over 25 years to educate Islanders about the health hazards of tobacco products and to help reduce it's usage and the exposure to it's lethal effects.

There are currently 22,000 smokers in PEI.

In 2004, the introduction of the PEI Smoke Free Places Act showcased PEI as a legislative trailblazer. The Island became the first province in Canada to protect residents and visitors from the health effects of second hand smoking – by law.

The rest of Canada eventually took our province's lead by adopting stronger and more comprehensive legislation.

In 2009, PEI's legislation is dated when compared to provinces with 100% smoke free legislation. Legislators can reposition PEI to catch up with the rest of the country...OR they can reclaim PEI's first-place ranking with the most innovative and effective legislation in Canada.

How can PEI regain its lead?

- ✦ **Eliminate** designated smoking rooms (DSR) permitted under the current legislation.
 - PEI is the only province in Canada with legislation allowing DSRs in public places
- ✦ **Prohibit** tobacco use in other public places:
 - Patios and decks
 - All government owned properties
 - Outdoor and indoor recreation facilities: parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and arenas
- ✦ **Ban** smoking in vehicles where children and youth are present.
- ✦ **Rid** PEI of flavoured tobacco products (products targeting youth).
 - Ban the sale of flavoured cigarettes and cigars like "Prime Times" and smokeless products like chew/spit tobacco.
- ✦ **Restrict** the sale of tobacco products to a limited number of designated licensed outlets in PEI.
 - Require all tobacco retailers and tobacconists to be licensed; and to make tobacco licenses conditional on compliance with all relevant legislation.
- ✦ **Reduce** the number of tobacco licenses available in Prince Edward Island, with an ultimate goal of tobacco products only being sold in tobacconist shops (smoke shops) across the province.

Federal Announcement, March 2009:

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced \$499,506 for three programs to be directed to help smokers on Prince Edward Island either quit or to prevent them from ever lighting up in the first place, largely aimed at getting youth and young adults to butt out. The three programs include:

1. A Pan-Atlantic Toolkit for Responsible Tobacco Retailers - The kit contains info for retailers on their responsibilities as tobacco sellers, including how to protect youth and respect the terms of their vendor licenses.
2. Intervention program at UPEI and Holland College - the PEI division of the Canadian Cancer Society will lead this project.

3. PEI Smokers' Helpline will receive continued funding to promote and market its services.

Provincial Health Minister Doug Currie said after leading the country in smoke-free legislation following amendments in 2005, P.E.I. has since fallen behind other jurisdictions. He said he hoped the province could close the gap with a plan to toughen legislation.

Canadian Council For Tobacco Control provided the following stats:

PEI Picture

- Population - 135,851 (total)
- Prevalence = 18%
- 15 – 19 yrs = 13%
- 20 – 24 yrs = 25%
- Former Smokers = 31%

Business of Tobacco in PEI

- No farming
- Retailers
- 9,300 packs sold per day
- \$24 M in tobacco taxes
- \$0.1745 per cigarette
- \$0.4534 per cigarette retail price
- \$0.2595 (taxes)
- \$0.1939 (EBIT/cigarette)
- \$27,000,000 industry for retailers, wholesalers and tobacco companies

Youth in PEI

- 10,000 youth between 15 – 19 in PEI
- 13.1% or 1,310 youth that currently smoke

Example: If they (youth) smoke on average 13.1 cigarettes per day, this translates into 6,263,765 cigarettes per year; at \$0.1745 per cigarette, the PEI government is collecting \$1,093,026 from underage smoking

Canadian Picture:

- 2,180,000 15 – 19 year old Canadians
- 15.2% smoke (11.7 cigarettes per day)
- 331,360 youth smoke 1,415,072,880 cigarettes per year
- Federal tax: \$16.41 per carton or \$0.08205 per cigarette
- \$116,106,729 in federal taxes from underage smoking

It is time for PEI to take the lead again!

Honourable Doug Currie, Minister of Health and government members need to hear from Islanders requesting changes to the PEI Smoke Free Places Act ...for the benefit of all Islanders health - children, youth and adults.

ALBERTON CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Shelley Fraser, Sonia Wallace, Kelly Herget, Co-Chairs

After several years with two dedicated people taking care of all the Home and School duties, namely Shelley Fraser and Shani Henderson, we are pleased to have a full executive in place for this year. We are having a much better parent turn out as well for our meetings. We have been meeting bi-monthly to discuss school issues and fund-raising ideas.

Lunch Program:

We do not have a breakfast program at our school, but we do run a hot lunch program. We offer lunches three days per week that the students can purchase as well as milk and yogurt tubes five days per week. Choices vary throughout the school year and include such things as pizza, chicken soup, chicken burgers, chili and nachos and meat pie.

Labels for Education:

We have enrolled in the Campbell's soup "Labels for Education" program for the first time this year. Envelopes for labels are available in each classroom and the collection seems to be going well.

Volunteer List:

At the first meeting of the year, on the suggestion of our school principal, Bernie Moran, it was decided to send home a volunteer sign-up sheet. Events were listed on this sheet where volunteers would be needed and parents/guardians could sign up where they were able to help. This has been a great help to our committee because as events came up and where extra help was needed, we had a number of parents we could call on. This helped to avoid the problem of the same volunteers doing all the work. Also, parents were more willing to sign up as they knew what the commitment would be and felt more comfortable coming forward.

Staff Appreciation Week:

Staff Appreciation Week was held from February 16 - 20 this year. This was a week later than the provincial suggestion, but it worked out well for us as there were no holidays or storm days, which enabled things to go quite smoothly. On Tuesday, we held a "treat day" where parents brought in finger foods and sweet treats for the staff. Playground duty was covered for morning recess so all staff could enjoy their goodies. On Wednesday, coffee and muffins were provided. A full buffet meal was brought in on Thursday for all staff, and playground duty was again covered for the lunch break. Our parent volunteer list was a big help preparing for this week's activities.

Fund-raising:

Early in the fall, we sold the compact fluorescent bulbs as our first fundraiser. Next, we held a bake sale in conjunction with our school's Christmas concert for the first time. This event was quite successful, selling out before the concert even started, so it is likely to become an annual event. A portion of our lunch time pizza sales also goes to our fund. Our annual school walk-a-thon will be held again in the spring. This is always a good source of income as the students work very hard at this.

ATHENA CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Sue Pettit, President

We have had a busy year so far, with several big changes at Athena! After our first Home and School meeting at the end of September, we welcomed a new school principal and a new president for the association. Our current executive members include:

- § Sue Pettit, President
- § Mary Smith, Past-President
- § Robin Smith, Treasurer
- § Marla Murray, Minutes Recorder.

Seven business meetings have been held to date, taking place in the school library on the first Monday of each month.

SUMMARY OF HOME AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

- § **Halloween Bake Sale**
- § **Information Session on Lock-Down Procedures with guest speaker, Mitch Murphy, of the Western School Board.**
Mr. Murphy spoke to parents about the development of the SAFE program, and lock-down procedures. Parents were invited to ask questions.
- § **ADL Cheese and Frozen Foods fundraiser:**
Pre-Christmas, we organized this fundraiser, involving all classes in the school. Students really enjoyed the awards and prizes ceremony held following the fundraiser. Profits will go towards purchasing additional books for elementary classes and towards science equipment for junior high classes.
- § **Christmas Bake Sale**
- § **The Giving Gift campaign:**
In lieu of buying gifts for teachers, money was donated by parents during the month of December to buy turkeys for the local food bank, and to 'sponsor' a couple of local families for Christmas.
- § **Fall and Spring Scholastic Book Fairs:**
Parent volunteers helped out during parent/teacher interview times to monitor the book fair sales.
- § **Numbers Night, Guest Speaker: Bill McIntyre:**
Mr. McIntyre presented to interested parents regarding math curriculum expectations for students in grades 1-6. He reviewed some learning strategies that are taught to help students master basic skills and facts they are required to learn. Parents from all schools in the Summerside area were invited to attend.
- § **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week activities:**
Despite a couple of no-school days during the week, all staff and teachers were treated to daily messages, door prizes, and tasty baking in thanks for their hard work and dedication to our students.
- § **Science Fair:**
Parent volunteers helped students to set up and take down their project displays. Judging was also performed by parent volunteers.

§ **Used Book Exchange:**

The annual book exchange offers students from all grades an opportunity to trade in books they've read, in exchange for books new to them that were brought in by fellow students.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

In an effort to increase and improve information sharing between the school and parents, announcements regarding upcoming events are made through memos from our Home and School Association, monthly school newsletters, weekly submissions to the Saturday edition of the Journal Pioneer newspaper, and via emails. Students are also given reminders of events through morning announcements.

In the fall, we sent home a volunteer sign-up form to parents and guardians. We listed all anticipated activities for the year ahead, with a brief description of the volunteer help required. Parents 'signed up' for those activities that fit best with their schedules and/or interests. This year, we emphasized the collection of email addresses in an effort to make communications with parents easier and faster. It has helped a lot, especially for organizing volunteer help!

CLOSING COMMENTS

This year, our Home and School Association has started to expand the scope of our involvement in school life. In addition to helping with fund-raising and volunteering at school-based events, we are trying to arrange opportunities for parents to learn more about what is happening at school and within the learning process.

Thanks to the small, but dedicated group of parents who have put time and effort into enriching Athena life for its students and parents!

BELFAST HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**President: Anne McLeod****Executive Members:**

President: Anne McLeod
Vice- President: Gail Thaxter
Secretary: Karen Gillis
Treasurer: Penny Hall

Partners in Learning:

●Because of many changes in the staffing at Belfast Consolidated -- a new principal, several teachers leaving -- our Games Night initiative from last spring was somewhat derailed. Although the current principal is aware of what was done last year and is in favour of repeating it this year, many of the teachers involved in organizing the activity had moved to other schools and the project has been slow to take off. We are hoping, however, to start it up again very soon and expect that the funding which has recently become available will be a big help in this area.

Internet Safety Presentation:

●At our November meeting, we used the CD program, "Parenting the Net Generation", which was made available at the 2008 PEIHSF Annual Meeting, to give a presentation on Internet Safety. Although the number of parents in attendance was a little disappointing, those who were present found it an extremely valuable eye-opener and were glad they came. We are thankful to the Provincial Home and School Federation and to Media Awareness for making this possible.

Lunch Program:

●Once again, our lunch program is a popular feature and, in the past year, has expanded to include a snack cart. Not only do we have a hot lunch available every day, serving healthy choices such as baked potatoes, chili, soup, chicken strips, and burgers, we also have snacks available at recess and lunch such as granola bars, yogurt, fresh fruit, carrot sticks, etc. White and chocolate milk are also sold daily. All items are ordered using tickets which are sold once a week by parent volunteers.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:

●For Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, parents sent in snacks for the school staff each day, ranging from healthy choices to somewhat indulgent treats! Instead of having a luncheon for the staff during the same week, we decided to serve a breakfast in June, after classes are over, with muffins, pancakes, fresh fruit, etc. We have done this in previous years, and the staff seems to really like this format and it is a nice way to end the year. The weather also tends to cooperate much more in June than in February! These events are generally held each year with slight variations and are always appreciated by staff.

Fund-raiser:

●Our major fund-raiser this year was the magazine renewal campaign, which we launched at the very beginning of the school year. Although we have usually participated in the 70-Mile Yard Sale in September (canteen plus table rentals), there were not enough interested volunteers that would commit to the project early enough in the summer, so we had to forego it this year. We also held a Christmas raffle, with the draw being made at the concert in December. Once again, we certainly appreciate all the dedicated parents and teachers who are willing to give of their time.

CENTRAL QUEENS HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Dana Coles/Basil Dickson, Co-Presidents

The Central Queens Elementary Home and School Executive members include:

Co-President: Basil Dickson

Co-resident: Dana Coles

Treasurer: Lynn Clow

Secretary: Melinda Wolters

Other Board Members: Joanne Clow, Bonnie Wigmore, Michelle Newton, Sharon Weeks, Scott Glendenning, Melissa Brownlow, Monica Hill, Jennifer Metcalfe, Christine McAleer, and Barb Dickson.

The Central Queens Home and School Executive and volunteers are very active in the school and work hard to help improve our children's education.

The following is a list of many of our roles in the school:

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week - hot lunch was served for all the staff to enjoy. Parents provide yard duty coverage during the meal so all staff members could enjoy this event.
- Sponsored a Winter Fun Day activity in February for the children and parents to celebrate and enjoy a Wintery day of both indoor and outdoor activities.
- Provided school skate transportation sponsorship.
- Partnered with the Charlottetown Rotary Club to provide \$ 1000 funding for a family math program.
- Spring Family Dance fund-raiser was held in May 2008 for students and their parents in the school gym. A bottle drive was also held to raise money. Financially supported (\$ 3000), planned and participated in building a new school/community playground.
- Organized the large number of volunteer sign up sheets for school activities, such as hot meal preparation, token sales, library assistance, hair check days, fudge donations and Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.
- Completed collection and redemption of Campbell's soup labels and grocery receipts in support of classroom funds.
- Very active in our weekly Healthy Snack Program. We are thankful for our committee and the work they do for this important program.
- Attended provincial Home and School Annual Meeting in the Spring and hosted Semi-Annual meeting in October 2008.
- Annual Christmas concert fudge sale fund-raiser which was very successful.
- Co-sponsored parent's session "How to Talk so Children Listen, How to Listen so Children Will Talk", with Dr. Alice Taylor.

We are extremely proud of the Central Queens Elementary Home and School Executive and the work they do throughout the year.

CHARLOTTETOWN RURAL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Lorna White / Cheryl Dalziel, Co-Chairs

Our principle activities this year include:

- Hosting “Meet the Teacher” night in September
- Attending Parent Teacher interviews in October to circulate substance abuse materials and encourage parents and students to attend both Substance Abuse Session and Graduation Information Night in November

- Organizing and hosting a Substance Abuse session for parents and their children in November
- Organizing an information night for potential graduates and their parents in November

- Operating a raffle as our annual fund-raiser
- Providing treats for staff during “Staff Appreciation” week in February

- Providing dance chaperones for the Charlottetown Rural prom as requested
- Contributing to the school newsletter and website

- Facilitating discussion on topics raised by parents
- Planning and hosting a reception for graduates and their parents on graduation night in June

- Donating prizes to a number of graduating students
- Executive members this year are Lorna White , Cheryl Dalziel and Dana Blakely . The executive are joined by an active core group of parents and additional volunteers who assist with specific projects.

DONAGH REGIONAL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**Patti Shea: President / Laura Downey: Secretary**

The first Donagh Regional Home and School meeting of the 2008/2009 school year was held on September 24, 2008. We started the year on an extremely positive note with a new format for our Meet the Teacher night. We had a new informal BBQ format. It felt like an old fashioned community get together.

There will be school assemblies every four to six weeks. These assemblies will be hosted by students, will be advertised in the newsletter and are open for parents to attend. The activities will include a theme book on character education, performance and student awards. The Junior High students will be organizing Spirit Fridays once a month to promote school spirit.

We now have a Birthday Program. Students will receive a card on their birthday and have their name on the morning announcements. Our new Vice Principal, Kelly Minnis, is heading up the new Fine Arts Program for the Jr. High students. It includes sketching, painting, etc. Our only fund raiser, a community calendar drive was a great success. We have lots of parental involvement and our community members really look forward to seeing us. We were invited to attend the Home and School Semi-Annual meeting on October 15th and Danny Murnaghan has volunteered to participate. As an incentive to improve attendance at Home and School Meetings, we have initiated a little competition for parents. The class with the highest percentage of parents attending meetings would get a cake party or other treat. The results are mixed but the kids really enjoy it.

We have two extremely dedicated volunteers. They provide our School Lunch Program; Paula Fraser and Joanne Murnaghan provide our students with two lunch specials a month. The kids really look forward to these days and so do "lunch-making weary" parents. Last year we donated the proceeds from the fudge sale at the Christmas concert to the school lunch program. We are committed to donating money to make sure that every Donagh student has enough to eat.

The students were involved in choosing new school colors and logo. Our Students have chosen "Donagh Dragons" as their school logo and navy and red as their school colors. The dragon design by Stephanie Mitchell was chosen by her peers. Congratulations Stephanie! Last year students went to see a play at the Confederation Centre and this year Canada Rocks is being offered. Home and School will assist with funding for the approximately 95 students that would be attending. They are hoping to reduce the cost for parents

Edna Reid, the Eastern School District trustee for Zone 6, was a guest speaker for an evening. She gave us a presentation on the role of the trustee. Edna reported that she expects to be quite busy in her role as trustee in the coming months due to the pending school reorganization report, which she is quite excited about.

For our Christmas Concert, this year the students will be putting on a school-based play with a beach theme. Paulette Duffy will be contacted to organize a fudge sale again this year to raise money for the "food cupboard" for students' snacks and lunches.

We have begun the Lockdown Procedures. Students are learning about safe zones, maps in rooms and remaining calm about it. The first drill will not be until the students are comfortable with the idea and the language of it, probably in January. A letter will come home with the date and time so parents are aware.

We had a wonderful response from parents for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. It was a short week so we broke the week into different days for different classes. Home and School also took a day. Our teachers had lots of delicious treats! We had a Teachers' Appreciation dinner during our Parent Teacher Interview day. Special thanks to Joanne, Danny, Hannah, Danielle, Jacob and Teresa for all of your help. We had tons of food and no one left without a full belly.

The year is slipping away very quickly. We are fully committed to making sure everyone has a positive experience at Donagh this year and I think we're succeeding.

EAST WILTSHIRE INTERMEDIATE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Carolyn Doyle / Connie MacDonald / Michelle MacPhee - Co-Chairs

We have approximately 12 members on this parent's committee, along with our chairperson Windsor Wight and teacher representatives Marlene Toole and Susan Gould. We have four meetings during the school year (November, January, March and May).

Meeting Agenda Items Discussed

Staffing changes

SAS

School closures

School Lockdowns

Staff Appreciation Week

Hockey Academy

Breakfast Program – looking for new ideas to recruit volunteers

Student teams, events and achievements

School Dances

We have approximately 3 dances throughout the school year. Committee members volunteer their time to work at the door to enable staff members to monitor the dances.

Resolutions, Federation Awards

Our committee did not submit any resolutions or nominations for the various awards this year.

Staff Appreciation Week

Our committee hosted an appreciation luncheon for all staff of East Wiltshire on Thursday, February 12. The committee invited various parents in the community to donate food items for the luncheon, along with all committee members contributing food and time to serve the lunch. This was very much appreciated by all staff of East Wiltshire School.

Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund

East Wiltshire and Bluefield Home and School members will be meeting in the near future to discuss and organize an evening for parents on a specific topic.

Fundraising

Our committee does not do any fundraising.

Closing

Our committee does not get as involved as other larger groups in the school system. We come together in the interest of our children and in their school family at East Wiltshire Intermediate.

ELLERSLIE ELEMENTARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

June Ellis, President

Secretary Lisa MacDougall

Treasurer Teresa Williams

Principal Jason Cormier

Parent Engagement Initiatives:

Once again at the beginning of the school year, we mailed out a volunteer form to the parents. On this form lists various activities that the parents/guardians would be willing to help out with. As in the past, this has proven to be very valuable as we use this to contact parents when an event arises that we need volunteers for.

In September, a barbeque get together for the parents was held with a great turnout. This is especially good for new parents to the school.

The Christmas concert was extremely well done with great attendance by family and friends of the students.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

- Free pizza for staff
- Lunch - chili and rolls
- Fruit tray

Fund-raisers

- Annual ADL frozen food drive - very successful, but a learning item for us in the future. We will not accept any more cash. In future, we will be operating this fund raiser accepting cheques or money orders only.

Initiatives

- The school was decorated for Halloween with a haunted house room decorated by the grade six class
- Remembrance Day Service was held at the school, with another moving ceremony and great respect shown by the students.
- Ecumenical service for the community winter carnival was held at the school. The school choir participated in the service.
- D.A.R.E. program
- As in the past, Maurice Bernard has come to our school. He gives free art classes to each class then gives afternoon sessions
- A new mural was painted on our library wall by Maurice Bernard. It represents our school logo - a large eagle. It is a great compliment to our school.
- The school continues to be well used by the community; walking program, meetings, community schools, and inside sports for families and groups.

ELM STREET ELEMENTARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**Angie Matheson, President**

Past President: Maureen Campbell

Vice President: Terry-Lynn Gallant

Secretary: Darlene Holt

Treasurer: Becky Hink

The jack hammers, saws, drills and other power tools are all a buzz this year as the year started as our renovation is under way at our school. We are all thrilled with the progress that the work crew is making. The Grade 6 students were very excited to move into their new classrooms shortly after Christmas. They are very bright and cheery rooms that come with most of the bells and whistles. They have bigger windows, higher ceilings, lockers, FM systems and more. The gym is well underway too, and we are hoping that the children will be running around in there by the first week in April. The renovation will go on for several more months with making the old gym into more classrooms and changing the layout of the office spaces and making them larger. The staff and students have all been very patient throughout this huge ordeal. Our Home and School is very excited to learn that we are going to finally get our very own room. The old teachers lounge will be ours when school starts up again in September. We are excited to make it our own.

Our school year jumped in to high gear right off the starting blocks with our annual school fund raiser. We chose a catalogue sales campaign once again this year and it was a great success. We were very happy with the outcome.

This year we continue to offer a hot lunch program every Friday. The schedule rotates with wraps, pizza, subs, and hot dogs. We were able to fill coordinator spots right from the start of the year, so we were able to start this program right up in September. We have different parents and executive volunteers each Friday. The students really enjoy the hot lunch program as it gives them a break from the everyday sandwich. With the money, we make from this program we are able to keep our cupboard stocked for those children that may not have a breakfast, lunch, or snack for one reason or another.

Every second Tuesday our Home and School has a healthy snack program. This is run by parent volunteers as well. We have a different parent from each and every class bring in a healthy snack to their child's class for the morning recess. It is well received by all of the students and staff. We find that children who are not hungry can concentrate a lot better and are likely to do better in their school work.

On November 20th we celebrated National Child's Day. We had lots of parents bake chocolate chip cookies so that we had enough, one for every child and staff member. We also bought chocolate milk from ADL at a huge discount to give to every child and staff member. Once the children were all

hyper from the chocolate, we held a poster contest. Each class had to break up into groups of 4 or 5 and make a poster on "What Being a Child Means to Me."

Once they were completed we had a huge parade throughout the school, with a prize of a Pizza Party going to the class with the best artistic ability. We ended the festivities by giving each child and staff member a zipper pull with the Elm Street logo on it. A great time was had by all.

For Christmas we gave each child in the school a chapter book that we purchased through Scholastic Book Club. We were very happy to hear that the children all really enjoyed this. We also heard that the teachers thought that this was a great idea. It helps get the children into a new book to read.

We started another fund at the school this year known as the "Playground Equipment Fund". We are very happy with how our first fund raiser for this went. Just before the Christmas break we sold wreaths and meat pies. This was a great success. We are hosting a pancake breakfast in May as well. The "Air Force Wing" in Summerside is donating all of the food and the space to host this event. We are hoping for a great turn out, so that will bring us a little closer to our goal. We are going to purchase a new piece of playground equipment that can be used by all of the children in the school. We are going to order one that is wheel chair accessible as well. This will be great for the students that we have who are in wheelchairs. This way they can play on it with all of their friends.

This year our Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week was a bit of a mix up as Old Man Winter played games with us all week. There was no school in the Monday as it was a PD day. On the Tuesday we had fruit and veggie trays brought in by some parents. On Wednesday we had a huge Pot Luck Lunch for all of the staff. We had a great selection of food for them to choose from. We had some parent volunteers come in and watch the classrooms so that all of the teachers could actually sit down and enjoy their lunch. We had other things planned for later in the week; however, the school closures made it impossible to follow through on these. We did have some parents bring in muffins and sandwiches on these days though as they knew that there would still be staff working at the school. All in all the week went well. We hope that next year we get to spoil them for the entire week, rather than just a few days.

Next year we are going to welcome the Grade 4 and 5 French immersion children to Elm Street . With the reno this year the Grade 4 students stayed at Greenfield School as our space was limited. We are thrilled that we will back up to about 500 students at the school. This year we had a total of around 400.

Elm Street Home and School is still only a small group of members, but with all the time and effort everyone puts into all of the events we host, we continue to make a difference within our school.

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ENGLEWOOD HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Bonnie Ralph, President

Members of Executive:

Bonnie Ralph (President), Cindy Darbyson (Vice-President), Trish Shaw (Treasurer), Beth Shaw (Secretary), Sandy Nicholson (Healthy Snack Program Coordinator).

Lunch and Snack Program

Our snack and lunch program continues to succeed and expand at Englewood. We are into our fifth year.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday we offer hot lunches for \$2 that have seen the selection grow each year.

Monday and Fridays usually offer choices such as baked potatoes, grilled chicken burgers, macaroni and cheese, soups, 100% beef burgers, chicken nuggets etc. On Wednesdays, we alternate between Greco Pizza and Subs (no processed meats).

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we offer fruit and vegetable trays (free) to each class that include a selection of 3 items (varying each week) plus cheese pieces. On the first Thursday of each month we now offer a tray with grapes, cheese, and whole grain crackers. This has been well received by the students.

The canteen has expanded its healthy snack selection for purchase and includes homemade muffins/cookies (donated by parents), bottled water and 100% pure juice boxes. We also offer yogurt tubes, granola bars, fruit cups, pretzels, baked chips, cheese and crackers etc.

Last year we instituted “lunch coupon sheets” in lieu of cash, parents can buy a sheet of 20 or 40 coupons. We had hoped it would alleviate having to have change and would be less work for the committee but we noticed our lunch sales dropped as some families didn’t have the up front cash to pay for the coupon sheets or forgot to buy them. We decided to give them options, coupons or cash and it seems to be working well.

We continue to get wonderful support from the businesses in the community (money donations); farmers (donating potatoes), and parents who volunteer to prepare the trays for classroom delivery. It is always a challenge to find volunteers for school programs so we really appreciate all those who do give their time to help prepare the fruit/veggie trays, purchase the foods, organize the volunteers, tally up the food orders etc. Without these volunteers our program would not be able to survive.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week is always a busy week at Englewood. All are recognized: teachers, bus drivers, custodians, library volunteers, tutors, teacher assistants, secretary, etc. Activities include a food item each day (cinnamon rolls, breakfast muffins) and two days of a hot lunch with dessert. The highlight for the week for the teachers is “yard and hall supervision” each day. This allows the staff to all “sit together” and enjoy the treats or meals – and just interact! It is always a fun week, and always appreciated.

Fundraising

We started the year short on funds, so we jumped right into a Christmas catalogue/cards fundraiser in September. It was quite successful and we will probably go with it again next year.

We also tried something new this year in regards to Xmas gifts to teachers from the students. Instead of students purchasing gifts for their teachers, the students can purchase a card to present to their teacher. The card would state that a donation was made to the Home and School Healthy Eating Program in their teachers’ name. The donation amount was completely up to the parent; and from the reviews, the parents and especially the teachers loved the idea and are looking forward to it again next year. This Christmas we are going to try and get the students more involved by designing the cards - should be fun for all.

This spring we will be doing at least one fundraiser of some sort to be determined. Once again most of the proceeds will go to supporting the Healthy Eating Program. We had to purchase a new fridge and freezer for our kitchen during the past year so funds never seem to sit around.

GLEN STEWART HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Madeleine LeGros / Sue MacLennan, Co-Chairs

Our first initiative began in June when we launched our Glen Stewart Reading Eagles Summer Reading Club. In partnership with the Stratford library, over 100 children from Glen Stewart and Donagh schools participated in the "Laugh Out Loud" summer reading program. Students were encouraged to read at least 20 minutes a day. The program had its closing ceremony and ice cream social on August 23. The social was in conjunction with our "Anne Week" celebrations in honour of the 100th Anniversary of Anne of Green Gables. We had potato sack races, three legged races, ice cream and raspberry cordial. Anne passed out certificates and prizes. It was a great success. The children read over 30,000 minutes throughout the summer! Thanks to Angela Blanchard, our past co-chair for all her hard work on this fantastic project to promote summer reading!

One of the themes we focused on this school year was giving parents more information about what was happening daily at Glen Stewart. One of the first things we created was the Glen Stewart Home and School blog, which went live on September 27, 2008. With help from teachers and the administration, we try to post information daily about interesting projects and activities at the school. The minutes from our meetings are posted on the blog. We also post releases from the provincial Home and School Federation and the department of education that may be of interest to parents.

Since September 2008, we have had, on average, 500 visitors per month, with 1,000 page views per month. We were also excited that the school decided to follow our lead and has set up The Glen Stewart Post, a school blog. This is still a work in progress but feel free to check it out: www.glenstewarthomeandschool.blog.ca. Best of all, it's free!!

Our Home and School Association has also experimented this year with "Laugh and Learn" sessions as a way to attract parents to our meetings. We dedicated the first hour to a special presenter. They have included Jamie MacSwain from CHANCES Family Resource Centre presenting on "Communicate Effectively with Your Child!" (October); Reading specialists Sarah MacDonald and Nicole Geoffrion talking about "reading records" and "running records", some of the ways they can measure a child's progress in reading as well as a presentation from the music department where we all got to play instruments and sing (November); the RCMP presenting on the SAFE program (December) and two-time Olympian Kara Grant from SportyKids talking about keeping your kids active (January).

Our Christmas Craft fair was another incredible success, raising more than \$12,000. This was the first year for the new organizing team and the transition was seamless. At our January meeting, we voted on how we would distribute the money to a number of worthwhile projects around the school, such as for math manipulatives for classrooms, materials for children with special needs, a crash mat for the gym.

The Greater Grounds committee continued to beautify the school grounds at Glen Stewart. The Vesey's fundraiser raised more than \$1,000 and we planted more than 600 spring bulbs. A poinsettia fundraiser was also a major success. The committee's major project right now is building a shade structure next to the Boundless playground. The GG committee has also painted new stencils on the back playground and will paint more in the spring. The stencils will also be available to rent by other schools and communities to help us raise money for more paint!

The Breakfast Club at Glen Stewart provides a healthy meal to 80-100 students a day. The parents got involved this year with two fundraisers called Muffin Mania. We asked parents to bring in 2 dozen muffins each and we sold them for a loonie. We were thrilled that more than 500 muffins came in for both events, raising more than \$1,000 for the Breakfast Club.

We are fortunate at Glen Stewart to have a generous group of parent volunteers who come out to help whenever we put out the call. For Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, we put on a massive lunch to feed more than 50. There is never a shortage of food or volunteers.

Our new executive is looking forward to their first full year as a team in 2009-2010. We will continue to build on the work of past executives and to push ourselves to find more creative ways to connect with the parent community at Glen Stewart. Thank you to parent volunteers and staff of Glen Stewart School for your support.

HERNEWOOD INTERMEDIATE HOME AND SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**Colleen Parker, President**

We started our year by meeting with the principal, Patti Sweet and selecting 5 meeting dates for the Parent Council throughout the year. We also included storm dates for the winter months. This allows us to include all dates for the first school newsletter, then subsequent newsletters prior to the meetings. Our first meeting was Sept. 24, 2008, and our final one will be April 29, 2009.

I attended the school's Parent Information Session to talk very briefly about our Parent Council in hopes of recruiting new people. I circulated a sign up sheet for people to sign that felt they would be interested in attending. I had 25 people sign up. This could be improved upon by asking people to include email addresses, as this is the most effective way to communicate with groups of people. I regret to report that we didn't get many people from this group actually attending. For many, they indicated that Wednesday night was a difficult night. Next year's council may wish to find another night to see if it increases turnout to meetings.

As in other years, we start the year by giving each parent the handbook on what a Parent Council is and how it is different from a Home and School Association.

Our school is very supportive of Parent Council with 3 staff at each meeting. The Student Council teacher rep (and student president when possible) attend each meeting giving updates of their activities. The Vice Principal and Principal attend each meeting. The Principal provides a written and verbal report at each meeting. As a parent, I have found this to be so valuable to learn and understand initiatives of our school. It really instills confidence in the school that my youth attends. Some of the items that are talked about would be the Safe Schools Initiative, Breakfast Program, Yes for Youth, Intermediate Math Assessment, Parent Engagement Survey, Transition Expo, Home and School Federation sessions and opportunities, nutrition policies, and many other activities and initiatives with the school.

We were unable to find someone available to attend the meeting in Summerside for the Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund. We do intend to follow up and apply for some funding. Parent Council is encouraged to attend the annual meeting on April 18, as it always proves to be a very interesting and enjoyable day.

I will be stepping down as president of Hernewood Parent Council this year. I can only say that I have really enjoyed being involved with this school and its great staff and council. Again, I encourage all to get involved in your school and learn about all the great things that are happening there to provide opportunities for all children.

LUCY MAUDE MONTGOMERY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Tina Vessey, President

On our executive this year:

President	Tina Vessey
Vice-President	Roma Misener
Treasurer	Lynn Jardine
Secretary	Valerie Herring- MacBeath
Past President	Debra Lynn Trainer
Teacher Rep	Alison Kelly-Doyle

The number of meetings we held this year to date is four with two remaining.

We have had a great lunch program which is run by Suzanne Pater. We serve potato wedges, pizza, and chicken nuggets weekly while we serve hotdogs by-weekly.

We have a wonderful group of parents that make our Teacher/Staff Appreciation a great success. We have our organizer Sandra Mayhew who makes sure we have parents bringing in treats everyday for the staff. This year was a little tricky with Monday being a holiday and Friday ending in a storm day. Although our teachers and staff were well taken care of on the remaining days.

Our one and only fund-raiser of the year is our annual Winter Carnival Family Fun Night which is organized by Christine MacDonald. Christine and her committee spend many hours making this a very successful event. This was held on Friday, November 22 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This night is full of excitement with a silent auction, bake sale, used book sale, raffle draw, and loads of games for the kids to play in the gymnasium. Our grand total this year was \$14,083.91.

This money has allowed us to help out with a sound field system, author visit, assisting in the Canada Rocks play, tether ball, with our main goal in mind a new addition to our playground equipment.

This is my second and final year as president and I have enjoyed working with the executive and parents. I look forward to helping out in anyway I can in the future.

MISCOUCHE CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mary MacKay, President

Executive members:

President	Mary MacKay
Past President	Mar McIsaac
Treasurer	Lesley MacKinnon
Secretary	Cathy Richard

Members:

Dianne MacCormack
Lynn Compton
Cathy Campbell
Carol Ann Arsenault
Lori Richard

We are fortunate at Miscouche Consolidated to have a strong parent group, and a great relationship with our school staff. We sent home volunteer forms at the beginning of the year, and we compiled a spreadsheet of the volunteers for each of our endeavors. This allows a number of parents to participate in activities of their choosing.

We were involved in discussions concerning the declining enrollment surveys, and their impact on schools in the province. As Miscouche has had increasing enrollments instead of declining enrollments, it is an important issue to us. Our school is presently using all available space, such as the Home Ec room and the Library, for classrooms. We are actively seeking solutions to this as we need to make room for kindergarten classes, and we presently do not have this room.

We have 3 fundraisers per year.

- Friday Hot dog sales: Lynn Compton is our parent coordinator who arranges these weekly volunteers.
- Christmas Basket: parents contribute items to the basket, and tickets are sold during the Christmas Concert. The draw is held the same night. Dianne MacCormack was our coordinator this year.
- Spring magazine sales

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: We provided a hot pot luck supper on Feb 2, the night of parent teacher interviews. This night is very popular with the teachers, and they enjoy the chance to have a hot supper on a long day. We decorated the teachers lounge in a western theme for the week, and had Wanted Posters of many of the teachers on the walls.

We help out the school Leadership group in the fall, by decorating a haunted room for their Halloween Gym. This activity is a lot of fun for everyone involved, and has been organized by Lesley MacKinnon and Cathy Campbell.

The Home and School always provides barbecued hot dogs and an ice cream treat to the Grades 1-6 on the last day of school. It is a great way to end the year.

MONTAGUE CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Nadine Williams, President

To Home and School Federation of PEI:

The Montague Home and School has been struggling for members. There are presently no committed members other than I Nadine Williams and the Secretary Martha MacLean.

- We have had our opening kick off BQQ back in September which was a great success.
- We have had our Christmas concerts and free milk days and have contributed to the cost of play at our local High school last month.
- We are still very active in our lunch room program and are hoping to have a new program for next school year.
- We purchased a new stove as well for the lunch room.
- We are currently holding our own.

The intention is to become more involved with the Federation by attending the Annual meeting in April.

Thanks Nadine Williams, President & Treasurer.

MOUNT STEWART HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

LaVerne MacKinnon - President

Executive Members:

LaVerne MacKinnon - President

Isabell Coffin - Vice President

Juanita Hughes - Treasurer

Mary MacDonald - Secretary

Time has flown by again this year here are a few of our accomplishments.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM :

We run a full time Kindergarten program. The children and Mrs. Lamphier benefit greatly from this program.

BUS DRIVER AWARD :

We were very pleased to have our bus driver, Clifford Affleck, chosen as "Bus Driver of The Year." The children had a great time telling why Clifford should be recognized.

FUND RAISERS :

As in years past, we had two major fund raisers. MANY THANKS go out to the Mount Stewart Fire Department for their support of our children. Again Linda , Eddie and Juanita put a lot of time and effort into the Birthday Calendar. Without them this project would not be possible. Thank You to them and all the canvassers. It is because of the hard work of these people that we are able to treat the kids to hot lunches, swims at the pool, bowling and other events through out the year.

STAFF APPRECIATION :

This year we did something a little extra for our staff. Along with the treats and potluck dinner we treated them to a night out. They were invited to a night at Piazza Joe's. A wonderful time was had by all. They deserve it and more.

PURCHASES :

As in other years we have tried to purchase much needed equipment and supplies for the school. This year our major purchase was books for the library. We hope these new editions will be enjoyed for many years to come.

We hope that everyone has a successful school year.

O'LEARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Colleen MacLeod, President

President: Colleen MacLeod

Treasurer: Janet Hart

Secretary: Amy Buchanan

Planned Activites for 2008/2009 School Year

Provide volunteers and/or financial contributions for the following activities:

September 2008

- Book Fair (provide parent volunteers)

January 2009

- Camp Wanna Read (provide supplies for s'mores and volunteers)

February 2009

- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
 - provide pot luck lunch for teachers
 - cover duty shifts for teachers
 - gave small gifts for staff room for teachers and staff

March/April 2009

- DARE program (provide small snack)
- Teacher's Got Talent (provide parent volunteers)

June 2009

- Grade 6 closing (provide meal for Grade 6 graduates)
- Fun Day at end of year (provide parent volunteers and possible BBQ or snacks)

Planned fundraising activities:

December 2008

- Christmas Flea Market raised \$800.00
- Recycables raised about \$75.00 so far

PARKDALE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**Jessie Frost-Wicks, President**

The Parkdale Home and School Executive is comprised of Jessie Frost-Wicks (President), Lisa MacLaren (Vice-President), Cathy McKenna (Secretary), and Tracey McAskill (Treasurer).

Our meetings are generally held on the last Tuesday of the month. Attendance at the meetings is usually comprised of two teachers, the principal/vice-principal and the executive, however we have a wonderful community of parents who are always at the ready to support our efforts and volunteer their time and abilities.

Some of the initiatives we have undertaken this year have included:

- Annual Christmas Concert fudge and bake sale and 50/50 draw.
- Two family movie nights in the gym with popcorn and treats, and lots of mats for curling up with sleeping bags and teddy bears. These have proven to be a wonderful social opportunity for parents and teachers and all of their respective children, and just a lot of fun.
- During Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, which was postponed until March 9 by mutual agreement with the teachers, we provided daily snacks and a lunch as well as covering playground duty each day for lunch and recess. We were also able to recruit donations from local businesses to provide draws each day for all of the deserving teachers and staff. We brought the students into the celebration by providing each with a school house cut-out for them to decorate and signify why they think their teacher and school are so special.

Our fundraising efforts have been cut back somewhat this year by virtue of the fact that we have concentrated a great deal of effort in addressing the recommendations of the Eastern School District, which in part recommend the closure of our school for the 2009/10 school year. We have decided that this has been the ultimate "Parent Engagement Initiative". Thanks to the fabulous assistance, support and input of the many families of Parkdale School, we feel that we have presented a strong and compelling argument in favour of keeping our school open for many years to come.

Thanks to the success of the fundraisers in which we did participate, we are able to continue to assist with the costs of the babysitting course, field trips and year-end class trips. Depending upon the outcome of the ESD deliberations, we shall also continue to make contributions to individual classes for books and athletic and/or musical equipment for the school.

PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Chrysta Blanchard, President

Executive Members:

President: Chrysta Blanchard

Vice-President: Vacant

Secretary: Crystal Gaudet

Treasurer: Jessica Gauthier

Members at Large: Sandra Hall, Sherron Gamble , Beth McEwan-Gallant

Meetings:

We meet once a month, usually the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. for one hour. These meetings are all open. Sometimes the executive needs to meet in between monthly meetings to organize special events.

Guest Speakers:

None scheduled yet.

Parent Volunteers:

We sent out a form at the beginning of the school year requesting volunteers for the following activities: hotdog day, pizza day, lunchtime readers, healthy snack providers, and special events. A spreadsheet was then created to organize the volunteers and schedules were then drawn up with copies going out to all the volunteers.

Special Events:

Cabot Park Beach Sweep - Parents organize, fund and serve a barbeque lunch to the whole school.

Thanksgiving - This year we decided to purchase a turkey and the fixings for 3 families for Thanksgiving. This included a few more healthy eating items.

Halloween - Parent readers get dressed up and read to the children as part of the school's activities.

Christmas - Parents brought in items for a bake sale which took place at the Parkside Christmas concert. All funds raised went to cover the cost of a turkey and the fixings for 3 needy families in our school.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week - Special coffee break snacks were provided all week long, as well as a buffet lunch on the Wednesday. Parents organized, brought in food and helped clean up. We also had the presentation of The Extra Mile Award this year. This was presented to Anne Farrel-Gaudet. We are VERY thrilled that she was chosen for this award and believe she deserves this award a great deal!

Easter - Once again we will be purchasing a turkey and fixings for 3 families to help them over the Holiday and see that they have healthy food. This will also provide them with the opportunity to sit as a family and have a great family meal.

Bike Rodeo - We organize the City of Summerside Police to visit our school and provide safety information as well as fun prizes and snacks.

Family Fun Night - In June as school is getting ready to wrap up, the Home and School organizes a night of games, cake auction, silent auction, and barbeque for the whole family.

Healthy Snacks - The Parkside Home and School funds and stocks healthy snack type food for children to access should they arrive at school without breakfast or without a lunch.

Fundraising - We have a penny parade in the fall for six weeks and also in the spring. This pays for our Beach Sweep barbeque, Family Fun Night Barbeque and Healthy Snacks.

PRINCE STREET HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Shelley Muzika, President

Vice-President – Lori MacDonald

Treasurer – Peter Rukavina

Secretary – Leanne MacNeil

Director – Kelly Allen

Director – Sarah Frank

Our organization has held four meetings thus far, with two more scheduled, along with a few executive meetings and fundraising meetings. At the Meet the Teacher night, we recruited three new members to our executive and obtained some new volunteers as well. In the fall we asked the school to submit their wish list for additional resources and supplies, and through the previous year's best ever fundraising, we were able to accommodate all requests!

Our fundraising activities throughout the year included our Christmas Basket Raffle and Christmas Concert bake sale; the upcoming pancake breakfast and our annual Spring Fling fun night scheduled for June 5/09, deftly organized by Kelly Allen.

For Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, Leanne MacNeil was able to recruit several volunteers to provide a variety of snacks each day, and lunch and playground duty on the following Friday due to the storm delay! We had created our own Prince Street Staff/Teacher Appreciation Award last year, and this year it was presented by Sarah Frank to Vice-Principal and Grade 5 teacher Colleen Mullen-Doyle at a school assembly, who was duly surprised and shed a few tears!

In concert with the school's technology committee, Prince Street Home and School offers movie nights, having had two so far, with two more scheduled. These are fun nights where parents and kids can camp out on the gym floor and watch a family movie with popcorn, juice and granola bars for a nominal fee. Funds raised from these nights help support additional technological equipment needs.

For the Parent Engagement Survey, our Home and School encouraged all parents to fill out the survey. For those without a computer at home, (like myself) we offered time on the school computers during parent teacher interviews and the movie night to fill out the survey.

Three of our executive were able to attend the Semi-Annual meeting in October.

We have a committed group of parents at Prince Street who are willing to help out with donations of their time, food and expertise when asked. We work closely with the dedicated staff of Prince Street to ensure a healthy, caring and supportive learning environment for our children.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Joanne Dunne, President

The Queen Charlotte Home and School Association has continued its support of the staff and students at Queen Charlotte Junior High School.

Several meetings have been held giving parents opportunities to voice concerns and provide feedback.

Lloyd Mallard was welcomed as a speaker at one meeting while the SAFE procedures were reviewed at another meeting.

The largest project supported is the Breakfast Program which operates three mornings per week. A dedicated group of parents volunteer in serving this program and the Association has allocated funding towards the program.

The Home and School Association continues to support the Parent Language Learning Club - an initiative to help immigrant parents become more familiar with the school, school community and to facilitate opportunities to speak English.

An evening of print-making is scheduled for March. All members of the school community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon – Home and School organized and hosted a buffet of chili, heart-healthy soups and desserts for all school staff in February. This event was very well supported by parent volunteers and greatly appreciated by staff.

SOUTHERN KINGS CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Teresa MacKinnon, President

Thanks to the strong support of a wonderful group of parents and a very supportive community SKC Home and School has been busy with the following activities in the 2008/09 school year:

1. Lunch Program every Friday
2. Healthy Snack every second Wednesday
3. Tick Team, a prevention team that checks for lice (very effective)
4. Hosted Homework Without Tears Workshop
5. Organized canteen for Cross Country Meet
6. Sold energy efficient light bulbs
7. Organized snack for Meet the Teacher Night and both sets of Parent/Teacher Interviews
8. Sold SKC clothing at various school events
9. Organized canteen for volleyball tournament
10. Organized our Christmas Fair (one of our main fundraisers)
11. Organized our annual Christmas Raffle (our other major fundraiser)
12. Sponsor of the Spring Into Reading Program
13. Organized Staff Appreciation Week (a lovely luncheon, food treats each day and gave all staff an engraved pen)
14. Organized food treat during Winter Carnival for students
15. Donated \$2,472.00 to our Library
16. Provided lunch for the judges for the SKC Science Fair
17. Sponsor our year book committee (\$500.00)
18. Will be presenting our grads with a gift at their graduation
19. Attended a Healthy Eating Alliance Workshop
20. Attended a Parent Focus Group for the Provincial Assessment Parent Report Card
21. Set up seasonal displays in our front lobby

ST. JEAN HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Andrew Gass / Emery Northrup, Co-Presidents

Executive Members:

President: Andrew Gass
President: Emery Northrup
Past-President Lori Devine
Secretary: Lori Devine
Treasurer: Sarah MacDonald

- Meet on the first Tuesdays of each school month
- Held a Christmas lottery to help raise funds
- Bake sale at door of Christmas concert which was very successful.
- Donated funds for purchase of an assessment kit for students in Grades 3-6
- Purchased whisper phones for kids in Grades 1-3 which students wrote a lovely thank you note to Home and School
- Held a public meeting for parents/guardians to express concerns over possible closure of St. Jean school.
- Cost shared Canada Rock's so students would only have to pay \$4 for tickets
- Gave a donation of funds to be used for new library books.
- Currently in process of obtaining new gym equipment which Home and School will cost share
- Home and School funds are in the positive and GIC fund is yielding a profit which is being considered for cashing in
- Provided treats and snacks for staff during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in February

ST. PETER'S BAY CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL

Andrea Studzinski, President

Vice-President: Bernie Beaton
Treasurer: Kathy MacEwen
Secretary: Lori Deveaux-MacKinnon

Hello to all from St. Peter's Bay Consolidated. We have had an active year at our Home and School. We have a full executive this year and a dedicated core of 10-15 parents and teachers who come each month to our meetings. We have 8 meetings per year, usually the first Monday evening of each month.

A representative of our Home and School attends both the Semi-Annual and Annual P.E.I. Home and School Federation meetings.

We submitted a proposal to the Federation's Parent Engagement Opportunity Fund to host a Literary Night at the School.

This year, our bank account has been healthy. We have been able to provide the students with money to skate twice at St. Peter's Rink. We have donated fruit to the classrooms during March which is Nutrition Month. We provide funds towards student agendas and the end of year school trip. We also donate each year to the King's County Music Festival and the Morell Regional High School Graduation Fund. We laid a wreath at the Morell Remembrance Day ceremony.

We celebrated Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week by serving a roast chicken dinner in the staff room to all teachers and staff. Almost every family in our school contributes in some way to give this special treat to our teachers and staff. In addition, sweets and goodies are provided during that week by many parents.

It has been a stressful year for all of the parents, teachers and staff as St. Peter's Consolidated is one of the 11 schools recommended to be closed at the end of this school year. Our Home and School has been actively meeting, discussing and planning how we will deal with this announcement. A community group called "St. Peter's School Development Committee" was formed after Home and School parents called for a St. Peter's community public meeting. A survey was sent out from this Committee to all households in the School's district. An over-whelming 95% of surveys returned were in favour of the school staying open. This group held many meetings and a rally prior to presenting at the Morell High School public consultation meeting. As well, our Home and School presented a letter also strongly in favour of our School remaining open.

In summary, a very busy year in which we enjoyed every moment of being part of St. Peter's Bay Consolidated.

ST. TERESA'S CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Marcella Byrne, President

Secretary: Michelle Gouthro

Vice President: Deborah Bradley

Trina Connors: Treasurer

We have 4 regular scheduled meetings and have had two other meetings this year as well as our regular Home and School meetings. These extra meetings were to discuss the pending closure of our school.

Our fundraising event this year was once again a success. We raised \$3000. A large portion of this money went to the school to aid in supplies needed for our students. We also used a portion of the money to treat the kids to lunch during one of their school outings. Our parents were busy volunteering again this year. We offered a large luncheon to the DVA Choir when they came to our school to entertain our students. Volunteers are in place once again to offer microwave lunches for the students. Twice a week a parent goes to the school and heats lunches for the children so that when it comes time for lunch they can eat right away. One of our parent members also volunteers as a librarian for the students once a week.

Our Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week was a resounding success once again. Our teachers enjoyed a hot meal served to them each day of the week as well as clean up taken care of afterwards. Our Home and School invited Bill McIntyre to the school to speak with the parents on New Math. His presentation was wonderful and the parents in attendance received a great deal of information. This was an initiative brought up as an idea in coming with the Parental Engagement program.

Our Home and School Association has been extra busy this year dealing with the issue of school closures. We invited other schools in our surrounding area affected by this decision to come to our school to talk about what we could do to work together in this ordeal. Unfortunately, this situation has taken up most of our time as members, and it has been hard to focus on other things at this time. We are very committed to keeping our school open and hope our efforts get this result for our school. We believe our school offers a great education and with the parental involvement in our school our children achieve great success.

In closing, I hope this will not be our last year as a Home and School Association ... so I will say that is all for now, and I look forward to reporting back to you again next year.

STONEPARK HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Michelle Cottreau / Debra Lynn Trainor, Co-Chairs

Secretary: Marva Sweeney-Nixon

Treasurer: Eric Pass

This year, like every year at Stonepark, we had a large number of parents come out to the “Meet The Teacher Night”. A basket for donations to our Home and School Association was passed around while the Principal, Mr. Norman Beck, gave his welcoming speech. The Co-Chairs each addressed the parents and asked for their support throughout the coming year.

We hold 5 meetings throughout the course of the year and can have as many as 16 people attend our meetings. We are impressed by the commitment of our parents and their willingness to help out when called upon.

Our association believes in supporting our school and students by providing the funds, where possible, to increase their opportunities for learning. During the school socials, we set up a canteen table where students can purchase home-made peanut-free snacks and water for a small price. As well, we opened our school to hold a Maritime Idol competition where our association was given a percentage of the admission fee. This year we used funds raised to purchase an additional three LCDs for the classrooms. The teachers find these an excellent teaching aid. We are also supporting a new Remembrance display in our lobby to honor Veterans and Canadian Forces who have served, and are still serving, our country.

We want our students to be heard as they offer many wonderful suggestions. A suggestion box is a great way for students to address their concerns. We follow up on these suggestions and have, at times, acted upon them.

During Staff Appreciation Week, our parents supplied treats to the staff lounge. Unfortunately, we had a snow day on the Friday of Staff Appreciation Week and our hot meal which we had planned was cancelled. Next year, we plan to hold that earlier in the week to avoid this from happening again.

Our Co-chairs attended the Semi-Annual PEIHSF meeting and will also be in attendance at the Annual meeting in the spring. We are excited to submit a resolution calling for a policy on numbers of children on a bus and general bus safety. There are also plans for our association to take part in the PEI Home and School Federation's Opportunity Fund for Parental Engagement.

On the last day of the school year, we will be having the Grade 9 closing to celebrate their achievements and wish them well as they move on to high school. We will once again offer sandwiches and sweets to the parents, students and teachers.

**TIGNISH HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Nicole Morrissey, President**

Executive Members:

President	Nicole Morrissey
Vice President	Kenneth LeClair
Treasurer	Deanna Keough
Secretary	Teena Callaghan

We usually hold 3-4 meetings per year.

Parent Information Sessions: We held a session with the principal in the fall regarding the procedures for the newly initiated lockdown that the school was going to be holding in the near future. The school has since held two lockdowns with each of them going over well. We have a session coming up soon with Gail Lecky (Canadian Parents for French) regarding making our homes “Homework ready.” This will be a session for both English and French Immersion parents. As the spring rolls closer to us and the snow melts away, we hope to have someone in from the RCMP department to do an assembly with the students regarding bicycle/helmet safety. Our community has been dealing with a tragic accident of a former student at our school who is in a coma since hitting his head on the driveway last summer from a bicycle accident. The students in the school are more aware of this importance of wearing a helmet now that this incident has happened so close to home.

Issues discussed at Home and School meetings included: fund-raising, monthly snack trays for students, school expenses covered by Home and School, weekly lunch menu, playground/gym equipment (i.e., soccer balls, cross country skis, snowshoes, etc), upcoming 20th anniversary of Tignish Elementary opening (fall 2009), staff assignments for the following year (done at June Home and School meetings).

No resolutions were put forth for the annual meeting. We receive our parent volunteer efforts in terms of when we need help putting out our trays each month (i.e., cutting up fruit, veggies, etc.) or for field trips and fun days with the students. Some parents also volunteer food or their time to help out with Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week plans usually consist of food brought in to the staff each day during early recess. Storms have been playing havoc with TSAW the last few years so we didn’t get our potluck lunch in this year. The following Monday, we had sandwiches and soup for the teachers and did a potluck luncheon for them on March 6 during parent/teacher interview day. For the second year in a row, as a token of our appreciation to our teachers, in lieu of gifts for each of them, we decided to donate \$100 to the IWK on behalf of our teachers in memory of a young student from Tignish who passed away there a few years ago due to cancer. This year we had the students work on a project for us to show the teachers and staff that they appreciate them. Each student received a cut out graphic of an apple and inside it said “I appreciate my teacher/bus driver/custodian (etc) because.....”. The students had to fill them out for their teacher and other staff members. The apples were collected at the end of the week, and the comments from each were typed up on an individual bookmark for each staff member to keep.

For the last 4 years our fund-raising efforts have been through Norcard. The money we raise from it buys items that the school needs like FM systems and gym equipment. As well, we use it to help fund field trips for the students as well. It also helped last year when our summer student program was denied any government funding for our two students so we had to incur that cost ourselves.

TRACADIE CROSS HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**Eileen Gaudet, President**

In 2006-2007 school year, the previous school administrator was successful in abolishing the Home and School from Tracadie Cross Consolidated and replaced it with the Parent Committee. This particular school administrator has since left Tracadie Cross Consolidated. I am pleased to report that 2008-2009 school year saw the return of its Home and School Association with the support and guidance of its current school administrator. The Executive include: Linda Craig, Lynn MacDonald and Paula Griffin.

Our association was slow to get back on its feet. Elections were held on November 5, 2008 with our first official meeting being held on February 4, 2009. There was excitement in the air knowing the Home and School was finally resurrected and immediately discussions took place as to what fun activities could be planned for the remainder of the current school year that would involve and support all the students and teachers. The association renewed its membership with the PEI Home and School Federation and became reacquainted with Shirley Jay.

This enthusiasm was short lived because of yet another blow received in the form of a report from the superintendent of the Eastern School District proposing our school be one of the 11 slated for closure. It seemed that we were being faced with one crisis after another. The Home and School Association has had three information meetings (at the time of this report) to obtain feedback from parents and community members regarding the proposed recommendation to close our school. Plans are in the works to do a presentation at the next Eastern School District public consultation meeting slated for March 24 in Morell.

Aside from this daunting issue, the Tracadie Cross Home and School Association has been active in a number of other activities:

Home and School Federation Extra Mile Award: Our organization nominated Susan Keizer for the Federation's *Extra Mile Award*. This award is given annually to a teacher or staff member who exemplifies going the extra mile--over and above the call of duty. Students, parents and teachers spoke highly of Ms. Keizer and her ongoing dedication to her students. We are honoured that Ms. Keizer was selected as the recipient of this award and on February 27th she was recognized for her dedication during a school assembly. Congratulations Ms. Keizer! We are truly fortunate to have you at our school.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week: Home and School organized and promoted this celebration with support from numerous parents. A wide range of food, treats and cards were presented to the staff.

Parent Engagement Fund: A representative of our organization attended an information meeting on February 24th hosted by the Home and School Federation. The Federation offered training on completing the funding application to access \$350.00 for an activity that would get parents involved in the education process.

Fundraising: Our organization recently held a movie night fundraiser. Other activities will be held in the coming months. The goal is to raise money to help off-set the costs associated with school trips. Students recently enjoyed a field trip to Brookvale Provincial Ski Park.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of all the staff at Tracadie Cross Consolidated School. We are pleased with the progress we have made in re-establishing the Home and School organization in our school. We look forward to working with administration, staff and students. We appreciate the support of the school administration and staff to help Home and School become active again.

VERNON RIVER CONSOLIDATED HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**Heather Gillis, Co-President****Executive Members:**

Co-President	Mary Ann Crane
Co-Treasurer	Donna MacLean
Co-Treasurer	Karen Pirch
Co-Secretary	Pam Bastedo
Co-Secretary	Jane MacPhee

Home & School Meetings:

We have scheduled bi-monthly meetings for Home and School. In addition, we hold Executive meetings the week prior to the Home and School meetings. If/when warranted, we are committed to holding Home and School meetings outside of the regular scheduled meetings. Parent turn out at the meetings tends to be low. With a few exceptions, it is generally the same dedicated parents who attend every meeting. Parent engagement/attendance at our Home and School meetings needs to be improved upon. However, we also recognize that in today's busy society, it may not always be feasible to attend such meetings.

Executive Committee Positions:

This year, there are four new members on the Executive Committee as follows: Jane MacPhee, Karen Pirch, Mary Ann Crane, and Heather Gillis. We are now at full strength for the Executive and continue to operate with two Co-President's, two Co-Treasurer's and two Co-Secretaries, in an effort to share responsibilities and collaborate on ideas. Communication is on going and continual amongst the Executive members and we work well as a team.

Funds:

To-date for the 2008/2009 school year, funds have dispersed only to help offset costs associated with the Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week activities. There has been a request to financially assist the girl's basketball team with uniforms, which is an agenda item at our next meeting scheduled for April 1st.

School Improvements:

Renovations were completed at VRCS over the summer. There were various upgrades and improvements which have enhanced and improved our children's learning atmosphere.

Fund Raising:

Once again this year, with the generous assistance and support of Scott and Debbie Drake, of Steerman's Quality Meats, we are going to have a Meat Draw, which will be the major fund raising effort for the VRCS Home and School Association. Additionally, we will be having a 50/50 Draw at an upcoming school event and are also exploring the idea of hosting a Family Karaoke night at the school, asking those who attend for a nominal donation at the door.

Annual Events:

Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week:

This year, during the week of February 9, we had various treats prepared and delivered to the Staff and

Teachers at VRCS. On February 20, a meal was prepared and served to all as a wrap- up event. Parent volunteers played a huge role in this endeavor, providing food, time and effort to make this a success.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea:

This event will be held again in May.

End of Year Field Trip:

The End of Year Field Trip/Fun Day is normally held at the Lord Selkirk Provincial Park, and is organized with the assistance and Staff and Parents.

School Organization Report:

This topic was discussed at our Home and School meeting, and parent's have attended some of the community meetings to learn more information about the proposal with regards to the Eastern School District. With regards to a possible closure, VRCS remains unaffected at this time, however this may be under review again within the next couple of years.

Closing Remarks:

This year has been a learning curve for many of the new Executive Members. Being on the Home and School Executive has allowed us to become more active and engaged at the School. We have a positive working relationship with the Teachers and Staff at Vernon River Consolidated School, and we will continue to build upon that relationship in the future.

WEST KENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL**Janice Hopkirk, Chairperson**

Janice Hopkirk, Chairperson

Kim MacKenzie, Treasurer

Lisa Gallant, Secretary

School Council Meetings:

We meet on the first Tuesday evening of every month. We have had sub-committees operating throughout the year and these committees meet in addition to our monthly meetings and report back to the larger group on their progress. These committees include Fall Fair committee, Fundraising Guidelines committee and Playground Committee. We have had strong turnouts at all of this year's meetings with many parents joining us who were new to the school in September.

Executive Committee Positions:

These positions are negotiated in the spring of every year. If a member of the executive is willing, they can continue a term for up to three years. This year, we are waiting to hear a final decision on school closures, specifically on the fate of St. Jean's Elementary before deciding on next year's executive. If students from St. Jean's are transferred to West Kent, it is the feeling of the current executive that it would be ideal to have co-chairs, with one representing the St. Jean's community. We feel it is important to make every effort to help in the transition for children losing their school. By looking to parents from the St. Jean's community we will have an opportunity to learn about what worked well at their school and in their Home and School organization and therefore enhance West Kent for all.

School Development Plan:

West Kent's School Development plan, as outlined by the administrators at the school, has focussed on literacy and technology. As this plan has been implemented and supported with much success, the school will be looking at a new plan for the next school year. School Council aims to support the school development plan with funds from fundraisers as well as through other volunteer efforts.

Fundraising:

West Kent School Council has operated a Fall Fair for several years as our major fundraiser. The Fair takes place in October each year and this year raised several thousand dollars. In addition to raising funds, an objective is to build connections between the school and the community while providing a fun event for students. Given the success of the fundraising aspect of this event, it was decided to develop a set of guidelines to refer to when allocating funds to proposed projects. These guidelines will be presented by a committee at the next school council meeting and subsequently voted on. Each year School Council gives money to each teacher, including specialists, to use to enhance their classrooms and teaching resources. This year, we also purchased a laminator, music equipment, Key Math resources, and listening centres. Furthermore, funds are used for fun days when special snacks are provided.

Lunch Program:

We offer a lunch program where children can purchase tokens every Monday for lunches for the remainder of the week. Currently the offerings are baked chicken nuggets, subway subs, baked potatoes, cheese pizza, various frozen yogurts and ice creams and milk or chocolate milk. This program is operated by parent volunteers and staff.

School Improvements:

A new committee has formed this year to look into improving the condition and amenities of our playground. Research is being done into possible funding as well as seeking out people in the community who might be able to donate their skills and time in installing new equipment. The committee is looking ahead to potential increases in population due to school closures, re-zoning and changes to kindergartens and considering these factors in their planning. This year we have had the addition of a beautiful mural inside the school, with another on the way thanks to a partnership with a local artist. During the past three years we have seen the school lobby get completely re-faced while the computer lab and the school library have been completely updated. The library has been re-invented and has since become the heart of the school. These improvements are the result of the vision of the school principal and vice-principal and many volunteer hours on the part of parents and staff. There is no sign of this enthusiasm or hard work waning.

Fund-raising Events:

We had a very successful Fall Fair this year, which has become an annual event that exemplifies the school council's mission to bring together school and community while enhancing school experience for students. School council members have traditionally thought it best to avoid having the students selling products to raise money and our Fall Fair has allowed us to meet this end.

Additional Social Events:

For several years, the school council has hosted a "Dessert and Disco" for students and their families in the spring. We have decided this is no longer feasible due to the growth in our population. It has become difficult to house all students and their families in the gym. We are looking to host an alternative event, perhaps outdoors, later in Spring where students and families can get together for games. We will again wait to see the outcome of the proposed school closures. If new students are directed to West Kent, we will focus our efforts around team-building where incoming families are invited to participate.

In closing, we are very proud of our school, particularly in the skills and dedication of staff and administrators, the growth in our programming and the closeness of our community. This year, our school continues to be enriched by diversity as we have welcomed several EAL and other international students. We are seeing many extracurricular activities thrive. Our students continue to enjoy various choirs, chess club and after school and intramural sports four days a week. New clubs include yoga, dance and a book club for grades 4-6. West Kent offers a leadership program for grade six students, "lunch bunch" where students are invited to play games, and a well-loved "book buddies" program. We have an excellent turnout for all of these clubs as well as for science and heritage fairs and spelling bees.

We have developed partnerships with a local artist and Prince Edward Home, and a pen pal program, initiated by a former student now living in Alberta, is about to take flight. These successes and others are due to the commitment of a wonderful staff and a very interested parent community, both working together to always put students first. Parents and staff are supportive of each other and communication lines are always open.

We have had increased attendance at school council meetings this year. These meetings have been filled with humour and good information as well as healthy debate on issues such as school lockdown procedures and storm day closures. We are looking forward to all of this stimulating activity continuing into the foreseeable future.

WEST ROYALTY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Glenn McPhee, President

Executive Members:

President	Glenn McPhee
Vice-President	Joanne Craig
Secretary	Dawn Alan
Treasurer	Mary Beth MacDougall

Response to ESD Organization Plan:

In an effort to be proactive, the Executive of the West Royalty Home and School Association prepared a response to the Eastern School District School Organization Plan. This response has been provided to the Board members of the Eastern School District, local Members of Parliament, Members of the PEI Legislative Assembly, and Members of the Charlottetown City Council. The Home and School Executive, along with school Principal, Ken Gaudet, thought it was important to share this document with the families of West Royalty Elementary School so they can be informed and join our efforts in communicating our message.

Christmas Visit:

The West Royalty Home and School Executive arranged to have Santa and Jack Frost visit our students in December. The students were very excited by this visit and enjoyed the healthy treats given to them by our visitors.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week:

The Teachers and Staff of West Royalty Elementary enjoyed a week of treats during this week. Teachers and Staff enjoyed treats during the week donated by parents and enjoyed a luncheon on Friday put on by the Home and School Association. The Teachers and Staff were also surprised this year by the creation of a wall dedicated to them with notes from all of their students. It was a very exciting and successful week.

Fund Raiser:

The magazine campaign was a huge success again this year thanks to the many volunteers. We will be using some of the monies raised to fund our Adaptive Playground. This playground will be an excellent addition to West Royalty School.

WESTWOOD AND ELIOT RIVER HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Janette Conklin / Tracey Hagan-O'Connor, Co-Chairs

Co-Chair: Janette Conklin

Co-Chair: Tracey Hagan-O'Connor

Treasurer: Glenda MacKinnon Peters

Secretary / Communications: Michelle Laird

Executive members: Ruth Morrison, Lori MacDonald, Lisa MacKay, Jeannie Campbell, Laura Hagen-Grant, Anita Murphy, Charlotte Bryant, Stewart Darrach, Anita Murphy, and Don MacFadyen

Meetings:

- We have a very small Home and School executive that meets several times a year.

Fund-raising:

- We organized the sale of products from QSP catalogue sales. Monies generated were spent at Eliot River School to assist in the purchase of playground equipment, computer programs for reading comprehension and library resources. Westwood purchased seven new FM sound systems.

Staff Appreciation:

- The executive members provided snacks for Staff Appreciation week.

Parent Engagement Initiative:

- Representatives from our executive attended the information sessions regarding the Provincial grants available to schools through the Provincial Home and School. We are hoping to take advantage of this opportunity fund.

Eastern School District School Organization Plan:

- Co-Chair Tracy Hagan-O'Connor of the executive attended the public session held at Bluefield and offered our support for the proposed plan in terms of its impact on Westwood/Eliot River. In addition, she presented the growing needs of our schools that require consideration in the future.

RESOLUTIONS 2009

Resolution 1/09 SCHOOL FEES

Submitted by Westisle Home and School Association

WHEREAS elementary and secondary education in Prince Edward Island is publicly funded; and

WHEREAS recent years have seen increases in the type and number of fees charged for participation in school activities, including some areas of the core curriculum; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that there are differences in school geographic areas and student characteristics and in some instances additional fees can provide opportunities of an enhanced education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF make a recommendation School Boards to conduct a review of school fees, in consultation with parents and care givers to develop policies specifying and regulating the type and level of fees that may be charged to students and families.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
School Boards

Resolution 2/09 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY: STUDENT NUMBERS
Submitted by the Stonepark Home and School Association

WHEREAS the Eastern and Western School Boards transport approximately 16,500 students over a large geographical area to school each day by school bus; and

WHEREAS the number of students transported daily will vary, and there is no regular reporting system to track these numbers; and

WHEREAS the size of students at different grade levels will vary, taking up more or less space; and

WHEREAS parents are concerned that transport on school buses be as safe as possible;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Minister of Education establish the maximum number of children at various grade levels and sizes allowed to travel safely on a school bus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District describe a seating configuration that is acceptable/ unacceptable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the Western School Board and Eastern School District develop a regular reporting system regarding the daily census on each bus.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 3/09 SAFE SCHOOLS

Submitted by the Westisle Home and School Association

WHEREAS the use of cell phones during school hours was banned in 2006; and

WHEREAS students are continuing to use cell phones in classrooms during school hours text messaging during class time; and

WHEREAS increased discipline involving parents may help to eliminate student use of cell phones; and

WHEREAS request for parental signatures to retrieve confiscated cell phones would better inform parents of student usage during class time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request school boards to involve parents in the implementation of a discipline policy for student use of cell phones during school hours that would require parental signatures to retrieve confiscated cell phones; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the school boards ensure that the existing discipline policies are followed (i.e. detention for offenses, suspension of cell phone use for repeat offenses); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that a zero tolerance policy be put in place by school boards.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 4/09 SCHOOL CLOSURES
Submitted by the Parkdale Home and School Association

WHEREAS in the face of declining enrolment in Prince Edward Island schools, the Department of Education released the provincial study of enrolments and facilities, *Schools for Tomorrow: Building and Sustaining High Quality Education Programs*; and

WHEREAS the Department of Education, pursuant to the above study, directed the School Boards of Prince Edward Island to submit a School Organization Plan for the immediate and future direction of the Boards; and

WHEREAS both the Eastern School District and the Western School Board have released their respective Organization Plans; and

WHEREAS provincially, the School Boards are in the process of developing a comprehensive re-zoning plan for Island schools to maximize the benefits of enhanced programming and resources for Island children in the face of declining enrolment; and

WHEREAS by September, 2010, all kindergartens shall be incorporated into Island schools; and

WHEREAS the Organization Plan for the Eastern School District recommends the closure of eleven schools within the district by September, 2009; and

WHEREAS a final decision on the recommended closures will not be made until the end of May, 2009; and

WHEREAS three months is insufficient time to make appropriate arrangements for bussing, staffing, resource transfers, and school supplies required for the transition necessitated by the pending closures; and

WHEREAS in light of re-zoning implementation and kindergarten transition within the next two years, the possibility exists that children, moved to a new school as a result of the proposed school closures, will be forced to move to a third school in as many years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation urge the Department of Education and the Prince Edward Island School Boards to delay the proposed school closures until the full impact of re-zoning and the introduction of kindergartens into the school system can be carefully and critically analysed, keeping the best interests of the students as the primary consideration.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 5/09 HAND WASHING

Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation

WHEREAS hands spread an estimated 80 percent of common infectious diseases like the common cold and flu (Public Health Agency of Canada), and

WHEREAS frequent hand washing is an effective way to prevent infectious diseases of all kinds, and

WHEREAS Island students should be educated in the proper method of hand washing in order to reduce the transmission of infectious diseases, and

WHEREAS the Eastern School District's School Nutrition Policy section 2 states that “Students should wash their hands before eating”, and

WHEREAS the Western School Board’s Policy #26 - Communities for Learning - School Climate, Discipline and Safety: Nutrition Policy states that “Students should wash their hands properly before eating”;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request that the school boards ensure that the existing hand washing policies are followed such that all students are provided with sufficient time to wash their hands properly prior to the lunch period.

DESTINATION: Department of Health
 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
 School Boards

Resolution 6/09 BAN ON FLAVOURED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation

WHEREAS the health of all Islanders, particularly youth and young adults, is at significant risk from the harms of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS the PEIHSF supports a provincial ban of flavoured tobacco products known to be addictive, harmful to health, targetting a youth market, and increasing in use by our youth; and

WHEREAS the flavoured tobacco products sold as singles are inexpensive to buy and display less health warnings than other cigarette products, and hence are very appealing and easily accessible to youth; and

WHEREAS we need to inform and educate students, teachers, and parents/guardians by supporting health curriculum development and school-based programs that better prepare our children to make healthy choices and decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEIHSF request the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to:

- pledge their commitment to the banning of the sale of flavoured tobacco products; and
- call for the amendments to the smoke-free places act to return PEI to a leadership role in protecting our children and youth through tobacco control and health education."

DESTINATION: Department of Health
 Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 7/09 WINTER SCHOOLING
Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation

- WHEREAS winter schooling on PEI is faced with many interruptions due to weather; and
- WHEREAS over the last 5 years, on average 7.5 instructional days per year were lost due to weather related school closures; and
- WHEREAS at 185 instructional days, PEI has the third lowest number of instructional days per year of any province or territory in Canada; and
- WHEREAS the weather and road conditions can vary substantially within a school board; and
- WHEREAS on many occasions predicted weather does not materialize or conditions often improve later in the morning; and
- WHEREAS the way in which the majority of students arrive to school (i.e. by bus, by walking, by parent/caregiver car) differs from school to school; and
- WHEREAS the Federation recognizes that the decision to close school or to remain open must be made with the safety of students and staff in mind; and
- WHEREAS if the majority of students and teachers are able to make it to school, the school should remain open with the understanding that the instructional hours can be used for revision and review of the curricular material;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation request that the school boards develop new policy on weather-related school closures that requires severe weather conditions to exist including freezing rain, snow and extreme temperatures before the decision to close is made ensuring that schools remain open for as long as possible in advance of forecasted inclement weather; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation request the school boards consider a Bus Cancellation Only option in a family of schools, during inclement weather so that schools can remain open and parents can use their own discretion with regard to getting their children to school.

DESTINATION: Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards

Resolution 8/09 ESTABLISHING ONE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Submitted by the PEI Home and School Federation

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's new vision for PEI is One Island Community, One Island Future; and

WHEREAS the current school boards have separate strategic plans, and generate their own policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS the suite of policies in the Eastern School District differ from those in the Western School Board; and

WHEREAS the operation of two school boards results in a costly duplication of administrative services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PEI Home and School Federation recommend that the provincial government dissolve the existing Western School Board and Eastern School District and create one English language school board for the province of PEI to ensure consistent and efficient delivery of academic programming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget savings associated with the merger of the two school boards be reinvested in education.

DESTINATION: Premier
 Department of Education and Early Child Development
 School Boards