

“Greenfield Gator Creators”

Greenfield Elementary School (K-6 school population: ~345)

2016-2017

Co-Chair: Angela Carpenter (Contact: angelamillar22@yahoo.ca)

Principal: Sandra Jay

Greenfield Elementary Home and School Association hosted an art night for parents and students at the school to create an art piece on canvas either individually or together guided by a local artist.

- ✚ **Art** – A local artist, Maurice Bernard, guided the student and parent participants in painting a picture on canvas that they could bring home with them. Participants at all levels of the creative process received instruction appropriate to their skill set, whether they were beginners or more advanced.

The project benefitted:

- ✚ **PARENTS** who engaged in a fun, creative activity with their children in the school setting.
- ✚ **STUDENTS** who shared a fun activity with their parents as they explored their creative side guided by a professional artist.
- ✚ **TEACHERS** who engaged with parents and students in an after school event where fun, learning and socializing all happened under one roof.

How were parents encouraged to attend?

- ✚ Parents received an email message and a Facebook message advertising this event. It filled up very fast and we had to form a waitlist.

Webstory:

Greenfield Elementary Home and School played host to a group of creative Gators and their parents for their art night. Twenty-eight students, eighteen parents and two teachers gathered at a fun, social event at the school to explore their creative side. A local artist guided the participants in painting a picture on canvas to take away. Some worked on individual projects and some parents and children shared a canvas. School staff, including the principal, were there helping to make the evening a success. Younger children who finished early were given colouring pages to keep them busy until the others were finished. Connections were forged between parents and the school community and children had a chance to engage in a family activity in the school setting. This breaks down barriers between the home and the school and lets parents see the school as a welcoming environment. Parents often see home and school as a fundraising body, so this gave them the opportunity to experience a different side of home and school. Many pictures of the event were posted to social media and received many positive comments.