



## **Presidents Report**

The end of my first term as Chair of the Home and School is approaching, and as I look back on this past year, I realize what a wonderful group of people I was lucky enough to be associated with. Having been a volunteer in the past it was not obvious to me just how devoted and enthusiastic our members are. We are very privileged to have such a great group of people in our Home and School.

This year I was very encouraged to see our membership grow to numbers we have never seen before. This year we started to change our approach to fundraising, by holding more community events and fundraisers in hopes of improving community spirit while raising funds for our children. It seems to have paid off, not only were we able to meet our goals, but exceed them, and I personally feel our community has benefitted from our efforts.

### **Activities and Accomplishments:**

We started the year by providing refreshments for the annual **Terry Fox Run**. The children had a wonderful day and were treated to frozen yogurt treats at the end.

Next up was our **Welcome Wilder Day**. During the day the activities were organized by the Teachers and many volunteers were on hand to help make this a very enjoyable day for everyone involved. In the evening, the Home and School organized a Wild time with a DJ, dancing, great food, and inflatables.

In October we held our **Halloween Dance**. Admission to the dance was a non-perishable food item, donated to a local West Island food bank. Our DJ was with us once again spinning some great spooky music, there was dancing, an amazing Haunted House, Bake Table, and great decorations. It was a great evening that was enjoyed by everyone involved.

During Parent Teacher interviews, we held a **Raffle** with part of the proceeds going to the 2013 Grad fund. The prize this year was generously donated by Mr. Massarelli, and was Principal for the day.

In November we held our **Holiday Craft Fair**. There were a number of different crafts made available for our children to make themselves and take them home! The children were very enthusiastic while making snowmen and jewelry, painting, and an abundance of other crafts all designed to kick off the holiday season.

**Tubing Day-** The Home and School was very proud to have been able to provide through all of its hard work the funds to cover the transportation costs for the School's first Tubing trip. It was another great day for the Kids!



**Anti-Bullying-** The Home and School provided the funds for an Anti Bullying workshop, students were provided with a daytime workshop, and parents were invited to the night time workshop. We also invited Greendale and Sunshine Academy to take part.

**Run-A-Thon-** This is a yearly event that is organized in conjunction with our Gym Teachers. There were many volunteers present to count laps and help out. This was a successful fundraiser as it promoted fitness and generated enthusiasm in the school, while raising funds for the Home and School.

**Teacher Appreciation:** The theme this year was Cat In The Hat! The Teachers were treated to a week full of great meals and snacks, the decorations were fantastic and very creative, and the effort put in by all those involved was amazing, and greatly appreciated by all the staff. We can truly say that we did our best to show them how much they are appreciated.

In March we had our annual **Movie Night**, this year's movie was Hotel Transylvania. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. A portion of the proceeds went towards the 2013 Grads.

April brought us to the **Comedy Night!** There were four comedians on hand to provide some much needed laughter to all of us. It was a very successful event, well organized, and very much enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The Home and School was also responsible for bringing the Geordie production of **Whispers In The Air** to the school for our children's enjoyment, it was a professional production that was both informative and fun! We also helped finance the Grade Two production of the **Balleine Bleu**.

The **Pizza, TCBY, and Subway** lunches were also a very important part of our success this year; thanks go out to all of those involved in such a tremendous undertaking. This is an integral part of our fundraising and your efforts are appreciated.

**Daycare Appreciation-** This year our Daycare and Lunch Staff were treated to some great salads, decadent deserts, teas and lots of other wonderful treats to show how much they are appreciated. Thanks go out to all the parents who volunteered their time and energy to making this a special week.

**Year End BBQ-** The **Year End BBQ** will be held in conjunction this year with the **Year-End Dance Show**. This is another wonderful Wilder event, with great food, live music, and our children dancing! What more could we ask for? It promises to be a Wilder time!



**News Flash!** We introduced for the first time this year the **Wilder Penfield Home and School News Flash**. This monthly newsletter provides information on upcoming events as well as reporting on events that have already taken place. Complete with pictures for everyone to enjoy. It is a great way to keep everyone involved and up to date on the happenings in the school.

### **Recommendations for Next Year**

Continue to grow our Home and School. Encourage more involvement, by putting up posters at the beginning of the school year advertising our Home and School, and explaining the benefits of being a member. I also think that a newsletter should be produced at the start of the year devoted to welcoming new and returning parents and explaining what our Home and School does.

I would also like to suggest a Parent Rep to Governing Board, this person would be responsible to attend meetings and report back to the Home and School.

We also have Fundscript to implement and promote, as well as increasing our promotion of Mabel's Labels.

Continue to pursue the idea of donating a portion of our surplus to a long term project for the School that would improve the Quality of our Children's School experience.

I would also like to see a Home and School calendar, outlining month by month what events are to take place and when planning should start.

Next year I would like to also implement sub-committee reports, whereas heads of the different sub-committees keep detailed notes of their planning of events and produce a summary report at the end that can be used by future generations of Home and School members.

### **Closing:**

In closing, I believe that we should be very proud of ourselves for what we have been able to accomplish this year. We have grown incredibly as a Home and School, and we have sown the seeds to ensure our continued growth. I am truly honored to have been associated with so many great people who have given so much of themselves for our community. It is truly inspiring to watch and be involved with such a group. Everyone was ready and willing to contribute in any way they were capable of, and for this I thank you, I appreciate all the efforts made by every member of this wonderful group.

I would also like to thank the Executive, Adrienne Nahanni, Nancy DiNardo, Nikki Arseneault, Tina Sunseri, and Kim Samaan, for going above and beyond this year with incredible effort and devotion.

Thank you, and have a great summer!

Danny Leahy