

Parent Council Update

June 2013

Website: www.mpsc.info

E-mail: manorparkschoolcouncil@yahoo.ca



ON THE CALENDAR

Tuesday June 18, 2013, School Council Meeting 7:00 pm, Library

Thursday June 27, 2013, Last Day of School



THANK YOU!

With the end of another school year near, School Council would like to take the opportunity to thank some of the many people who helped Manor Park Public School have a successful year.

First, thank you to the teaching staff, administration, and custodians for nurturing and encouraging the students, and for supporting School Council initiatives. These initiatives and fundraisers would not be possible without the many, many parent volunteers who help out with events or keep weekly programs running smoothly. Many thanks to you all! In particular, we would like to thank this year's team of fundraiser coordinators: Kathryn Pizana (pizza); Tammy Moffatt (QSP magazines and Scholastic book fair); Sue Noble and Jen Coulas (Dance-a-Thon); Erin Yoshida and Christina Kaeser (Plant Sale); and Gael Italiano, Jutta Paczulla, and Wesley Wark (Mayfair). Their combined efforts have resulted in a \$30,000 budget to benefit next year's students.

This year we would also like to draw special attention to the following parent and community volunteers who helped keep extracurricular activities operating. Nancy Grinberg led the choir, Sheila MacMillan coached badminton, Phil Davies taught girl's basketball, and Leigh Anne Richardson led the Leadership Team.

Thank you for your commitment to offering a well-rounded education to the students.

There are always parent volunteers whose children graduate or move on from the Manor Park community. We would like to thank the following departing volunteers for their many years of help and support of the school: Alexandra Aubin, Albert Carriere, Robin & Sonia Hughes, Alison Laidlaw, Sheila MacMillan, Maggie Martel, Nicole McCumber, and Christine Predovic.

Last but not least, after five years at Manor Park, Principal Shari Brodie is moving on to Rockcliffe Public School in September. Shari has worked tirelessly with the parent community to bring about changes to the school during her time here. A few significant highlights include migrating to a Balanced School Day, renovating the Library, Kitchen and Gym, transitioning out the Alternative program and bringing in full-day kindergarten. She has also supported and encouraged the many fundraisers the Council organizes, including Pizza Thursdays, May Fair, as well as new ventures such as the Book Fair, the Dance-A-Thon and magazine subscriptions. We thank Shari for her dedication to our school and for her never-ending commitment to nurturing a safe and caring school environment for the students. We wish you well Shari!

Have an enjoyable summer, and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Sincerely,
Erin Yoshida and Marie Blythe-Hallman, Co-Chairs
Leigh Anne Richardson, Past Chair



Annual Outdoor Plant Sale

The Home and School Association would like to thank everyone who came out to support the Plant Sale fundraiser held on May 18. We had a frosty start to the day, but the sunny weather brought a good volume of customers all day long, resulting in a profit of \$1,400. We would like to thank our great team of volunteers: Elizabeth Ainslie, Lilian Andrade, Alexandra Aubin, May Awada, Emily Beedell, Mary Jane Delacruz, Jenny Doull's mom, Sarah Geh, Kate Gragg, Jenna & Juliana & Rami Hamoudeh, Kaitlin Keyes, Amy Lightfoot, Tim Linder, Tomomi Matsuoka, Sue Noble, Alexandra Rivoche, Kim Shiau, Benson Tan, Li

Tan, and Julia Ticona. We hope you enjoy your flowers all summer long and thank you for supporting the school.



Another Successful May Fair!

Despite the cool weather, May Fair was a great success this year. Many families came out and enjoyed the day, participating in the diverse fun activities, listening to live music and enjoying the BBQ and other snacks. May Fair is one of Manor Park School's biggest fundraisers, and we were fortunate to attract many sponsorships and donations this year. The toy & book tables were very active, and so was the silent auction. In total, about \$10,500 were raised for Manor Park School. The funds will support field trips, books for the library, special in-school activities, and much more. A big thank you to all the organizers and contributors, and to the many volunteers who worked hard to make May Fair such a resounding success!



Manor Park Public School Hosts Speaker Dr. Tina Daniels

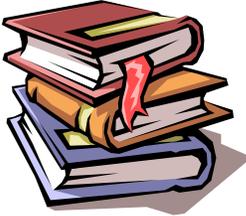
On June 5th, Dr. Tina Daniels, a professor of psychology at Carleton University and a specialist on social aggression, visited Manor Park Public School to give a talk to parents, guardians and members of the community entitled "Our Children, Our Community: Building Positive Peer Relationships." Dr. Daniels discussed ways in which we can support our children in building skills that are compatible with healthy and constructive behaviour towards others, and that foster healthy, positive relationships.

This presentation for parents, guardians and community members accompanied presentations that the children received during their class time at school. Dr. Daniels emphasized relationship-building and conflict resolution skills that parents, the school and the community can together teach and encourage in students. Teaching children skills that are incompatible with bullying, harnessing

the power of the peer group by engaging bystanders to speak out, and building a social climate that embraces respect, empathy, diversity, and equality are all strategies that can help build a positive school climate where there is no place for bullying.

For more information about Dr. Tina Daniels and her approach to helping children build positive peer relationships visit:

<http://www.prevnet.ca/partners/researchers/dr-tina-daniels>



Manor Park's Parent Resource Lending Library will be back in September...

...with scores of books for you to borrow on a number of topics related to parenting, and children's mental, emotional and physical health, such as this one.

Hold on to Your Kids Why Parents Need to Matter More than Peers, by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Mate

"This book helps parents understand a new and worrying trend in which peers are replacing parents in the lives of children and youth. When this happens, children look to their peers for direction: for a sense of right and wrong, for values, identity and codes of behaviour. But peer orientation undermines family cohesion, sabotages healthy development, poisons the school atmosphere, and fosters an aggressively hostile and sexualized youth culture. This book helps parents understand this disturbing phenomenon and provides solutions to restore the intuitive child-parent bond to its rightful pre-eminence. The concepts, principles and practical advice contained in this book, will empower parents to be for their children what nature intended: the true source of contact, security and warmth."

Can't wait until September to browse? Check out the full list of books available to borrow on the Parent Council website (www.mpsc.info -- go to the **Parent Resources** tab at the top of the page). Borrowing will begin again in September. Stay tuned for further details.



Fundraising Positions Filled

We have filled our 3 vacant fundraiser coordinator positions for the 2013-2014 school year. Emily Beedell will run the Annual Plant Sale, Kris Bulmer will do the magazine subscriptions, and Kathryn Pizana will stay on as our Pizza Coordinator. Thank you parents for your help!

Greening Project Volunteer Needed

A volunteer is needed for next school year to keep school and community interest in our schoolyard. This volunteer spot on the School Council makes sure that the educational butterfly garden (now incorporated into the kindergarten fenced in area) is kept healthy and accessible for classroom use, as well as the young trees in the schoolyard.

Six years ago, the butterfly garden was planted, 26 trees were planted and the new playground was installed – all through money raised from city grants, school fundraising and community donations, including from the Manor Park Community Council and family businesses. The aim of the school yard greening project was to create environments in the school yard so teachers could bring students outdoors more for educational opportunities – from the outdoor classroom area (boulders under the shade of the pine trees) to the butterfly and insect friendly garden (dedicated to now-retired teacher Madame Anne); the planter of trees as well as the many other tree areas planted to create shade – and, overall, provide opportunities for stewardship and getting out into the yard.

If you are interested in this volunteer spot, please email current coordinator Victoria McMullen at vpmm@sympatico.ca for more information.

Thanks Victoria for your dedication and service to greening the schoolyard for students of MPPS to enjoy!

2013-2014 School Council Elections

If you are interested in taking a more active role in your child's education, consider joining the School Council in September. School Councils play an important role in ensuring the success of all students, facilitating communication between parents and the school community, and representing the parent community's perspective in the decision making process.

The Treasurer for the 2013-2014 school year will be elected at the June 18

Council meeting. If you are interested in being nominated for this position, please plan to attend.

Elections for the remaining executive positions will be held in September, and nomination information will be distributed in the early fall. The elected positions are:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Kindergarten Representative
- Primary Grades Representative
- Junior Grades Representative
- Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Representative
- Community Liaison Delegate
- Members-at-Large (2)

The next School Council meeting will be held **Tuesday June 18, 2013**.

Join our email list to receive the monthly school council agenda and minutes: manorparkschoolcouncil@yahoo.ca. Check out our website: www.mpsc.info.