

# Woodlands School Council News

Council Executive - Chair: Sangeeta Chopra Charron, Hitesh Doshi; Secretary: Mona Seidler Hosios

December 2006

## **Upcoming School Council Meetings**

January 29, 2007

March 26, 2007

April 30 2007

May 28, 2007

(Last Monday of January, March, April and May starting at 7:30 pm in the school)

## **Contact Us**

[hdoshi@sympatico.ca](mailto:hdoshi@sympatico.ca)

[sccharron@rogers.com](mailto:sccharron@rogers.com)

[lhosios@sympatico.ca](mailto:lhosios@sympatico.ca)

## **Website**

<http://woodlands.peelschools.org>

[Enhanced Program at Woodlands](#)

[School Library](#)

## **Message from 2006-2007 Executive**

The purpose of the School Council is to foster an environment of partnership between the principal, teachers, students, parents and the community at large. Your participation in the activities and meetings of the School Council can help us in sharing the responsibility of providing a high quality education system for our children, as well as establishing and enhancing communication between the school and parents.

## **The survey says**

Recently, members of the School Council circulated a survey during Parents' Night on November 16. The survey was titled "Involving Parents in the School" and the purpose of the survey was to gain data on the interests and needs of the parents of Woodlands students as it relates to the activities of the school. The detailed results of this survey are found on the School Council section of the Woodlands School website: <http://woodlands.peelschools.org>.

A summary of the survey findings based on a 60% return rate is :

- The majority of the parents showed a keen interest in volunteering for field trips and career days. There was some interest in volunteering for other activities as well. Some additional suggestions for volunteering were sports coach or robotics.
- Parents were interested in learning more about homework strategies and how to successfully work with teachers.
- The current method of communication via newsletter and bulletins was used by the general parent population.
- Monthly calendar updates of events and competitions posted on the website was considered to be the most effective communication tool.
- School events, activities, competitions, projects/assignments with due dates were listed as some of the key communication items of interest to parents.
- Distribution of packages outlining information about the School Council, meetings, key events and expectations from parents/students and regular and on-going communication from the School Council were considered as important steps toward encouraging greater parent participation. Meet and greet programs were also considered useful in encouraging an inclusive environment.
- Lack of time and busy work schedules were primary reasons for lack of parent participation.

The survey helped stimulate discussion among the council members and generate ideas for developing a communication plan for future use. (types of communication and tools to be used for the future). One of the most important messages from the survey was that parents wished to "communicate and connect" on a more frequent basis.

Based on the survey data, the members of the School Council and School Administration are working on enhancing regular and timely communication with parents about upcoming events, past successes and parent/student participation opportunities. We welcome your feedback! Please plan to join us at the next School Council meeting scheduled for 2007 on January 29, March 26, April 30, and May 28.