



10 ideas ...How to use the \$500 Parent Involvement Funds

The Upper Grand Parent Involvement Committee has created a list of effective ways to use the \$500 Base

These initiatives are an appropriate use of the \$500 annual parent Involvement funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The initiatives you choose to undertake need not be complex or overly time-consuming. It is important to keep in mind that even a modest effort to engage parents can result in huge dividends for parents, for staff and for every student.

Welcoming all families to the school community. Families are active participants in the life of the school, when they feel welcomed, valued/honoured, and connected to each other, school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

only to welcome all parents, but also to share and enjoy a wide range of traditions, cultures, sports and other activities. One example to consider: Hold an international dinner with foods from around the world.

- 1 Provide a brief information session(s) by the parent group on a topic or issue of current interest to the school community
- 2 Where the school serves a diverse community, multicultural programs and events can serve not only to welcome all parents, but also to share and enjoy a wide range of traditions, cultures, sports and other activities. One example to consider: Hold an international dinner with foods from around the world.
- 3 One to three times per year, consider a direct mailing from the parent group to parents using a portion of the parent involvement funds. This will ensure that all parents consistently and reliably receive information, understand the role and activities of the parent group, and are provided with ongoing opportunities to become involved.
- 4 Set up a Parent Resource Center (Room) with information about the school, the school council/parent group and the education system. Include a parent booking lending library and other parent focused resources.
- 5 Add a social “meet and greet” aspect to school council/parent group meetings – 15 minutes of refreshments and networking at the beginning of meeting can create a welcoming atmosphere helping parents, community feel connected and included.
- 6 Purchase advertising space in the local newspaper or radio station to advertise the school council/parent group meetings, Meet the Teacher night, or any parent focused events held at the school.
- 7 Host an informal “breakfast/coffee with the school council/parent group”.
- 8 Purchase teenage year specific pamphlets/booklets, include in a transition to secondary school information/welcome package for parents.
- 9 Design, develop distribute fridge magnets with school contact information, important school dates such as PD days, Meet the Teacher, school council/parent group meetings and any other special parent focused school events.
- 10 Create a welcoming information package for parents. Include information about the school and its programs, the parent group and its meetings, key dates, school events, and opportunities for parental involvement.