

PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANTS

SCHOOL GRANT PROPOSAL KIT

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME OF SCHOOL

St. Aloysius Catholic Elementary School

NAME OF SCHOOL BOARD

Waterloo Catholic District School Board

NAME OF SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR

Tom Cahill  
Christine Burn

NAME OF SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Michelle Shypula

ADDRESS

504 Connaught Street  
Kitchener, ON  
N2C 1C2

TELEPHONE

519-893-5830

A. NAME OF PROJECT: Promoting Inclusivity and Literacy

B. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF YOUR PROJECT?

The intention behind this project is two-fold. First, we would like to continue to develop our ability as a school community to make all families feel welcomed and included in the culture of St. Aloysius School (project objective – creating a culture where parents are partners). (i.e. Multicultural Night, Translation of School Newsletters in other languages, better accessibility to various information regarding community and school events, student welcome bags etc.) Secondly, we would like to enhance our parents ability to support student literacy achievement (project objective – student success) in alignment with school practices (i.e. bilingual language resources – for example, books that contain both English and first language text in them, provision of “Summer Advantage” parent-student workbook for all children in the Early Years program)

C. WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

Please describe who this project will benefit and how they will benefit.

This project is designed to benefit our students and their parents.

- ESL parents will have a better understanding of school events as newsletters will be translated into their first language
- School and community events will be made easily accessible to all members of our community through the use of a community “display” rack
- ESL parents will have access to materials that will enable them to participate in reading activities with their children
- All members in our community will be invited to attend a Multicultural evening, in order to come together to celebrate and develop an increased appreciation of one another’s cultural traditions.
- All Parents of children in the Early Years will receive the Summer Advantage program, a resource that will enable parents to expose their children to skills they will focus on in these programs.
- Given the demographics of our school community, we believe these are much needed resources/supports to assist our parents in becoming more involved with their children’s programming.

D. THIS PROJECT WILL ENABLE THE SCHOOL TO:

(Check as many as apply and write a sentence to explain your choice)

...Help parents support their childrens’ learning

- Provision of bilingual resources. We will create a library sign-out system for newcomer families so that bilingual books and AV resources can be taken home and used with their children. Reinforcement of first language with learning of English significantly speeds up language acquisition and promotes learning in the home environment.
- Purchasing of student workbook “Summer Advantage” that would be provided for each of our children new to Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten. This resource offers

parents the opportunity to give their child advance exposure to the curriculum that is being delivered in the Early Years program

- Children will make dual language books (with texts and illustrations) that will help others to understand and appreciate their diversity and develop a greater sense of pride in their ethnicity and language ability.

...Contribute to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for parents.

- Purchasing of items that are included in student welcome bags (all children who are new to St. Aloysius School receive a welcome bag). The monies provided by the grant will help to offset costs of materials such as markers, pens, children books, zipper pulls, small treat for each child etc.

...Bring in more parents from diverse communities.

- A multicultural evening will be planned for second term. The invitation will extend to all families in our community. There will be an opportunity to learn about one another's cultural traditions, and share in a variety of foods that reflect our unique cultural diversity.
- School newsletters are now only printed in English. Twenty-five percent of our parent population do not have English as their first language. We are planning to translate the remaining newsletters this year in languages our parents can read. We believe that if we provide information parents can understand, there is greater likelihood they will participate in school related events.

...Improve communication with parents.

- School newsletter translation (as per above). Also, we would like to purchase wall-mounted magazine racks in order to house various information for our community (i.e. school, community-centre and parish newsletters, pamphlets – for example, from the Waterloo Regional Health Unit, Family and Children Services, KW Counselling etc.) The information available in this rack would also contain resources to support families who may be experiencing other barriers in their child's education and their participation (Free counselling Services, Big Brother Big Sister Mentoring Opportunities, inexpensive sport/extracurricular activities, Food Bank Information, after school homework programs)

...Other

#### E. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MEET YOUR GOAL?

Please describe what you will do, when you will do it, and who will do it.

- meeting with School Council, Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss project
- conference with all parties to discuss the above objectives, and costs involved, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> until Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> (principal, co-chairs, ESL teacher and consultant, Multicultural Settlement worker, Librarian Technician, interpreter)
- once grant is approved, purchasing of resources will begin. We have determined the ESL resources we would like to purchase in consultation with our board ESL consultant

- we have investigated the costs of the wall magazine racks (in front foyer of school, easily accessible to all parents) and the shelving device we will need to house the resources in the library for our ESL parent resources (being overseen by principal, co-chairs, ESL teacher and Librarian Technician)
- we have obtained an interpreter to translate newsletters, and this will commence in January, 2007, this has been organized by the ESL teacher and principal
- meeting established with representative from Summer Advantage program for Friday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup> to determine costs of materials for children in Early Years program for Sept. 2007, if grant approved, will purchase immediately (principal)
- Multicultural Evening will be overseen by a Multicultural Settlement worker and an ESL Teacher and will take place at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Once funds have been allocated, School Council will develop a committee to ensure that all steps in process are implemented.

**F. HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU MEET YOUR GOAL?**

Please describe how you will measure the success of your project.

- English as a second language parents will sign out available resources from the library and survey of those using the centre will be given to determine its effectiveness
- Information made available to parents will be taken from displays
- Parents will attend Multicultural Evening
- Diverse parent involvement in various school activities, i.e. School Council, volunteering opportunities at the school
- Early Years teachers will see improvements in baseline abilities in literacy and numeracy (as per Balanced Literacy Assessment Measures) in children new to SK and JK
- Student created dual language books will be available for all students to read

**G. WITH WHOM DID YOU CONSULT ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM?**

Principal, School Council, Librarian Technician, ESL teacher and consultant, Multicultural Settlement worker

**H. HOW MANY PROJECTS IS YOUR SCHOOL PROPOSING? One**

**IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL, PLEASE GIVE THIS PROPOSAL A NUMBER BASED ON PRIORITY OF FUNDING: \_\_\_\_\_**

(write 1 if it is your first choice, 2 if it is your second choice, etc.)

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

### School Grant Proposal Kit

Please list all the items you expect to pay for and what you estimate each one will cost.

1. Cost to translate newsletters: \$100.00 x 6	600.00
2. Cost for Multicultural Evening – Food costs	250.00
Decorations (i.e. bilingual posters)	50.00
Quiz prizes	100.00
Coffee supplies	60.00
Water	20.00
Plates, cutlery, cups, napkins	30.00
3. Cost for photocopying for invites to Multicultural Evening/translations (400 copies)	100.00
4. Cost for Magazine Display Racks (6 magazines, 6 pamphlets)	250.00
5. Shelving for ESL parent resources (Brodart Full Panel Rack)	1100.00
6. Summer Advantage Resource book (\$17.00 x 75)	1275.00
7. Items for welcome bags	200.00
8. Bilingual Resources for ESL parents	1000.00
9. Materials required to create student dual language books	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5135.00</b>