

## The Benefits of Home & School

OFHSA provides an independent voice for parents.

OFHSA is one of 3 parent groups recognized by the Ministry of Education and is acknowledged in the Education Act.

OFHSA has among its partners in education ETFO, OSSTF, OPSBA, and the Ontario Principals' Council.

OFHSA provides ongoing training and support for its members through regular mailings to H&S Association and H&S Council presidents, printed resources, leadership workshops, an annual conference and the OFHSA website.

OFHSA produces and distributes to members *The OFHSA Bulletin* newsletter. *Virtually Yours*, the e-newsletter is sent to subscribers approximately every six weeks.

All members of OFHSA are covered by the Federation's liability insurance policy while participating in H&S sponsored events.

## About Fundraising

OFHSA has developed fundraising directives for members and associations to be used in conjunction with the fundraising policies of district school boards and the Ministry guidelines.

Home and School members control their funds and decide how to spend them. In the interest of obtaining "The Best for Each Student" these decisions are often made in consultation with school staff and administration.

Funds raised by the Home and School are **not** part of the school generated funds and **must** remain in control of the Home and School association at all times.

## OFHSA is a Registered Charitable Organization

As such, official donation receipts for income tax purposes can be issued for all donations of \$25 or more made to a Home and School Association in good standing.

Charitable Number: 870729266RR0001

**OFHSA**

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**Ontario Federation of  
Home & School Associations**

***Congratulations!***  
**You have a Home &  
School Association**



Updated 2013

## Some History of Home & School

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations was founded in 1919 and incorporated in 1933. The Federation provides a province – wide network for parents interested in public education. OFHSA's structure is multi-level, mirroring that of the education system in Ontario: Associations form at local schools, H&S Councils interact with district school boards, and the Federation operates at the provincial level. Each year members of OFHSA meet to discuss and form policy which allows the Federation to advocate on behalf of the members on issues of concern. We are committed to informed and pro-active involvement in our homes, our schools and our communities to obtain "The Best for Each Student".

## Who are the Members of OFHSA?

Membership in OFHSA is open to individuals, age 18 and over, who are interested in the welfare of children and youth, and who subscribe to the purposes, beliefs and objectives of the Federation. The majority of members are parents.

## The Role of the Principal

The principal is welcome to purchase a membership and become a member with voting privileges – as are teachers and other staff members.

The principal **may be asked** by the association to become a member of the executive.

The principal should be a part of the agenda at each meeting to bring forward items of interest to parents relating to the school such as programme, curriculum, etc.

Principals and staff can ask to make regular contributions to association newsletters to increase understanding between teachers and parents as well to build a climate where everyone is working together to benefit students and the community.

Ideally the president of the H&S Association and the principal will meet throughout the school year to discuss school or Board policies and procedures, to co-ordinate upcoming events at the school, and ways in which the H&S can contribute to the success of the school.

## About Home & School Meetings and Events

Home and School is an independent organization that fosters ideals of co-operation and partnership within our school as well as within our community.

All Home and School events held in a school are subject to the policies and procedures of the district school board.

Home and School meetings follow an agenda set by members. The meeting is chaired by the president. All members of the school community are welcome to attend and participate in meetings however only members are eligible to make and vote on motions.

A member of the H&S executive is appointed annually to the School Council, as a full member of that group, according to Reg.612.

