
CALLING ALL CLASS PARENTS

Royal Orchard Public School

Thornhill, Ontario, Canada

As part of the School Plan for Continuous Improvement, Royal Orchard Public School enhanced the two-way communication between home to school and school to home by establishing a Class Parent Representative Program.

The school sent a letter home asking parents to volunteer to serve as a Class Parent. The Class Parent telephones other parents in the class to remind them of specific functions happening in the school or in a particular class. If two parents volunteered for the position, then they divide the class list in half. If there are three class parents, then they each only have a third of the class to contact, and so forth. Some examples of communication may be:

- Class field trips;
- Parent-teacher conferences;
- Report card distribution;
- School Council meetings; and
- The monthly school newsletter availability in hard copy and on the school website.

Each Class Parent had a list of names and numbers to call when needed. Whenever a Class Parent needed to relay information, a teacher or the principal completed a communication template with a script so that the Class Parent could give the same information to each family. Class Parents who spoke other languages beyond English could convey the message to families in the needed languages.

The Class Parent communication strategy was easy on the budget, as it required no extra funds. This was also a good volunteer activity for parents because it could be done conveniently from home.

Because of the Class Parent Representative Program, families made fewer calls to the office requesting information. Some parents commented on appreciating the extra reminders. The school and its families look forward to continuing this practice next year.

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