

For Immediate Release:



Award Given Recognizing Parent Council

(Winnipeg, April 23, 2010) – École St. Avila Home and School Association was awarded the *Parent Council Recognition Award* by Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) at its Annual Banquet on April 23, 2010 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.

École St. Avila Home and School Association (*Pembina Trails School Division*) was nominated by École St. Avila Principal, Gordon Campbell. Highlights of the group's achievements include:

- Fundraising activities which support school based learning opportunities, safety, and the environment
- Operating a successful milk program
- Working collaboratively with the school team to develop a school nutrition policy
- Involvement with Canadian Parents for French, in support of French language learning opportunities
- Extensive volunteering in the school to enhance learning and extracurricular opportunities
- Developing an after school program for children needing daycare. (*The program is now operated by the Pembina Trails School Division and currently services 60 students and their families*)
- Working with the school community during a very difficult time, to address overcrowding and reorganization concerns, in a calm and professional manner
- Developing an extensive environmental grounds enhancement project entitled "Down the Drain", which has received national attention

"The École St. Avila Home and School Association is a very active group which has a tremendously positive impact on the learning environment in our school," said Campbell. "The group meets regularly and supports the school in many ways, both big and small."

Nominees Austin Elementary Parent Advisory Council (*Pine Creek School Division*), Beausejour Early Years Parent Advisory Council (*Sunrise School Division*), Belmont Parent Association (*Seven Oaks School Division*), École Riverview School Parent Advisory Council (*Winnipeg School Division*), Happy Thought School Parent Advisory Council (*Lord Selkirk School Division*), Kelsey Community School Parent Advisory Council (*Kelsey School Division*), Robert H. Smith Parent Council (*Winnipeg School Division*), and Sun Valley Parent Advisory Council (*River East Transcona School Division*) were also congratulated for their valuable contributions made to their respective school communities.

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Recognition Award was established in 2009 as an opportunity to highlight the extraordinary efforts put forth by school based parent groups to support, promote, and enhance meaningful parental involvement in Manitoba's education system. Representatives from educational stakeholder groups are invited to serve on the judging panel and review each nomination to determine the annual recipient.

The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.

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