



## BECKENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Student Representative Council

Invite 4 student leaders from Years 5-7 (Primary)  
Years 8 & 9 (Secondary)

To attend the

## Kids Talk Fest

Canning River Eco Education Centre  
Kent Street  
Cannington

On

**Wednesday, June 2, 2010**

9am – 2.30pm

Morning and afternoon sessions will provide student leaders with opportunities to work in groups to address local issues as part of the 'Us and Our Community' project, initiated by the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

**Morning snacks, water, and lunch provided.**

Transport to be arranged by each school (but we can help!)

Interested students are requested to forward suggestions for sessions. Issues must relate to the local community *e.g. safety, health and well-being, transport, education, water, the environment, sustainable living, recreational needs, biodiversity.*

This is an opportunity for children and young people to have their voice heard on community issues that are important to them now and in the future.

**RSVP** May 14, 2010

**Cathy Hearman**

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**Mrs Hayden, the Aboriginal Education Officer at Beckenham P.S. opened the Talk Fest with a Welcome to Country, recognizing the traditional owners of the land. She and Jackson held up the flag of the Aboriginal people. Mrs Hayden explained the significance of the flag to her people. She welcomed everyone and said how proud she was to be part of our special day where we had the opportunity to share ideas and respect everyone's opinions.**

**Mrs Searle, the Mayor for the City of Gosnells, performed the official opening. She encouraged all students to take opportunities, such as the Talk Fest, to listen and to learn from others. She was very pleased to be a part of the day and to see so many students from different schools coming together to discuss issues that were important to them and to their future. She welcomed any ideas or plans from the day to be forwarded to her at the City of Gosnells.**



**We had some quiet time to think of six statements about ourselves. These were things that were important to us, the things that we believed in, the things that gave us enjoyment. We illustrated and labelled each of our statements.**

**We then got together in our groups and looked at common elements that we shared and discussed the headings we could put them under.**

**We shared with everyone. We found out that we had many things in common throughout all the groups. Important to all of us were family, friends, playing sports or relaxing and being outdoors. Many of us believed in being active in our community, recycling more, reducing graffiti and vandalism and reducing pollution. We believed in freedom and a peaceful world for everyone.**

**Our next activity was a SWOT analysis of our local community. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. We brainstormed ideas together and recorded ideas under the different headings.**

**Strengths linked to the things that were important to us and our families. We all liked living close to our schools, our friends, shops, open public spaces and sporting facilities.**

**Weaknesses linked to road and safety issues and lack of essential facilities close to where we lived. There were concerns with vandalism, graffiti, littering and a need for more activities and venues for teenagers and youths. Many of us do not feel secure in our community.**

**Threats related to lack of open spaces and negative elements in our community. Criminal offences such as vandalism, graffiti, arson, damaging properties and hoons were not always dealt with. There were many concerns relating to our environment and the future of animals, plants, waterways and a healthy lifestyle for everyone in the community.**

**Opportunities reflected a wish for more community and youth facilities. More police presence and stronger neighbourhood watch would help everyone feel safer. Having a shared community garden would encourage everyone to grow their own vegetables and fruit and get to know and look after each other.**

**Our final activity was to use the 'Opportunities' and 'Threats' of our SWOT analysis to create our 'perfect community'**

**We had a room full of recycled materials to help us create a community that we would all want to live in. Everyone in the group contributed ideas and constructed facilities from materials such as corks, popsticks, cereal boxes, egg cartons, match sticks, milk cartons, milk tops, shoe boxes, ice cream containers, pipe cleaners and paper in all shapes, colours and thicknesses.**

**Common ideas were:**

- **Communities where homes and facilities were close together.**
- **We wanted to be able to walk to schools, parks, sporting facilities and shops in the area in which we lived.**
- **We liked having small shops in our community, where people know each other. Not big shopping centres.**
- **We think community gardens bring people of all ages together. It would be nice to have a shared plot where everyone could grow vegetables and fruit and maybe share or trade the things we grow.**
- **More walkways and bikeways with roads around the community so that you can feel safe.**
- **Overpasses linking people and facilities**







