

Mutchmor Survey Results

March 2010-03-22

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Quick Guide to this Report

The following are the highlights of this report.

1. The total child population in the English catchment zone of Mutchmor has been stable over the last 15 years as reported by the Statistics Canada Census results. However, the share of those children attending Mutchmor has decreased slowly over the last 3 years. Currently, ~23% of children in the catchment zone attending a public school (First Ave or Mutchmor) choose to come to Mutchmor. This is fairly consistent with Board-wide figures of French immersion versus English programming.
2. Of the current total student population at Mutchmor (including gifted), 46% reside within the English catchment zone, and 41% likely reside outside the English catchment zone. Approximately 30% of the students attending Mutchmor's congregated gifted classes reside inside the school's English catchment boundary. Approximately 60% of the students attending Mutchmor's English program reside inside the school's English catchment boundary.
3. From the recently conducted survey of Mutchmor parents, the following are the program preferences for Mutchmor (in order):
 1. Congregated Gifted
 2. English with Core French
 3. Middle French Immersion (MFI)
 4. Grade 7 & 8 Congregated Gifted
 5. Grade 7 & 8 English
 6. Early French Immersion (EFI)

4. Of parents who have children in JK to grade 3, **73%** of them would consider Middle French Immersion (MFI) for their children.
Of parents who have children in grades 4-6, **50%** would have considered MFI for their child had MFI been offered at Mutchmor.

The latter number is likely lower as a result of students leaving Mutchmor to attend Hopewell's MFI program. This number also suggests only ~20% of parents who would like their child to attend MFI actually choose to move their child to another school to attend the MFI program.

5. Overall, parents love this school because their children are happy and performing well!

Historic Enrollment and Census Populations:

The number of children aged 0-14 years old by Census Area completed by Statistics Canada:

Area/ Census Year:	1991	1996	2001	2006
Glebe & Dow's Lake	1710	1540	1525	1515
Bell Street Area	150	175	140	120
Old Ottawa South	1710	1915	1950	1980

Child Age distribution by Census Year and Area as determined by Statistics Canada:

Glebe+DowsLake	1991	1996	2001	2006
0-4 yrs	505	430	545	525
5-9 yrs	555	490	475	525
10-14yrs	650	620	505	465
Old Ottawa South				
0-4 yrs	630	640	650	680
5-9 yrs	670	615	650	680*
10-14 yrs	580	660	650	620

Historical Enrollment Figures:

Note: School caps changed sometime between 2005 -2007 due to the new max of 20 children in a class in grades SK-3.

Historical Enrolment figures:

	Grd			1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
		old cap	new cap												
Mutchmor (ENG,CG)	jk-6	417.5	386	252	339	334	367	357	360	380	370	380	395	364	330
First Ave (EFI, G,FI)	jk-6	424.5	394	368	365	347	350	350	361	381	407	419	455	508	513
Total in Glebe:				620	704	681	717	707	721	761	777	799	850	872	843
Mutchmor percentage:				41%	48%	49%	51%	50%	50%	50%	48%	48%	46%	42%	39%
Hopewell (EFI,MFI,G,Eng,ENG)	jk-8	800	800	721	756	786	860	900	865	832	840	860	866	930 (50 G, Gr 7 & 8)	932(49 G7&8)
Glashan(ENG,LFI,G,eng)	7&8	385.5	386	361	393	329	334	370	345	367	350	350	359	356 (84 LFI)	
Lady E.(ALT)	jk-6	368	337	304	329	338	306	295	319	334	325	343	290	279	
Elgin Street (ENG,EFI)	jk-6	262	242	239	225	215	250	256	257	262	272	261	237	254	
Cambridge(ENG)	jk-6	335.5	311	291	337	333	341	290	251	222	220	169	171	149	
Centennial(ENG)	jk-6	337	321	203	271	??	??	300	277	283	250	220	217	216	
Viscount(ENG,EFI)	jk-6	179.5	164	220	225	216	216	205	180	152	150	130	91	96	
York(ENG)	jk-8	388	363	274	305	323	330	340	314	267	235	255	223	205	

2009-2010 Survey

Why:

The School Council was asked by our School Board Trustee, Rob Campbell, to start discussions about the type of school Mutchmor should be and the programs the school should have in the future. There will be an accommodation review for downtown schools within the next couple of years and we would like to ensure that Mutchmor Council represents our parents' views to the Board accurately. Two neighbouring schools are overenrolled while at other schools, including Mutchmor, the number of enrolled students has declined. With this in mind, the School Council asked parents to complete a short survey (10 questions).

The survey questions were framed to gain greater understanding of why parents chose Mutchmor for their children, what programs they value, and what they would like to see in the future at the school.

Results:

118 surveys were completed representing 153 children.

It is possible that some children are represented more than once in the survey as all parents in a family were invited to respond. However, assuming no children were duplicated, this response rate gives coverage to 46% of the student population.

A high response rate was obtained from parents of all grades, at approximately 50%, when in fact many commercial surveys do not even receive a 25% response rate.

Q1: Number of children they have at Mutchmor

Most respondents have only 1 child attending Mutchmor (**71%**) while **28%** of respondents have 2 children attending Mutchmor. Overall, this survey represents 153 children, or **46%** of the student population.

Q2: What grade(s) are your child(ren) in:

The number of children in each grade was estimated and a response rate per grade calculated.

What grades are your child(ren) in? (Check all that apply)				
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	# children in grade	% response
JK	7.6%	9	17	53%
SK	7.6%	9	15	60%
Grade 1	13.6%	16	33	48%
Grade 2	17.8%	21	36	58%
Grade 3	21.2%	25	47	53%
Grade 4	25.4%	30	56	54%
Grade 5	19.5%	23	59	39%
Grade 6	15.3%	18	49	37%
answered question		118		
skipped question		0		

Most grades were evenly represented in the survey except for students in Grades 5 (39%) and 6 (37%). A high response rate was obtained from parents of all grades.

Q3. If you reside outside the English catchment zone, why did you choose Mutchmor?

This question was asked to those who do not live within the boundaries of English catchment zone in order to understand what attracts them to Mutchmor. Given that 41% of the student population (including gifted) of Mutchmor resides outside the English catchment zone, it was felt this was important to know. However, in future, all parents should be polled on why they choose English education.

If your child is attending Mutchmor from OUTSIDE the English Program catchment area (for example, on a cross-boundary transfer, attending the Gifted program, etc.), please select your reason(s) for choosing Mutchmor.			
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Adjusted Percent
This question does not apply, we live in the English program catchment area.	40.2%	39	NA
Daycare in the school or neighbourhood	9.3%	9	15.5%
My child(ren) used to live in the catchment area but we have since moved	4.1%	4	6.9%
My child(ren) has one parent residing in the catchment area	2.1%	2	3.4%
To attend Congregated Gifted Class	48.5%	47	81.0%
On Congregated Gifted waiting list	3.1%	3	5.2%
Sibling attending	6.2%	6	10.3%
Academic standards	9.3%	9	15.5%
Ease of Access (convenience)	5.2%	5	8.6%
Other (please specify)		12	20.7%
<i>answered question</i>		97	58
<i>skipped question</i>		21	

From the above table, the most important consideration for people coming from outside the English catchment zone to attend Mutchmor is for the Gifted Program (81%). Having nearby Daycare and the schools high academic standards were respectively chosen as reasons to attend by ~16% of respondents.

Q4. Rate the importance of the following to you:

There are currently unused classrooms at Mutchmor. To understand what programs you would like to see at Mutchmor, please rate the importance of the following to you.						
Answer Options	High	Medium	Low	Not at all	Response Count	Response Ranking
Adding Full Day Kindergarten	21	22	20	26	89	1.27
Adding Early French Immersion(SK-gr 6)	16	21	23	27	87	1.08
Adding Middle French Immersion(gr 4-6)	39	33	16	13	101	2.16
Keeping Congregated Gifted (gr 1-6)	78	15	5	8	106	3.03
Adding more congregated gifted classes	43	21	19	10	93	1.99
Expanding boundaries for ENGLISH program(please comment)	11	20	22	25	78	0.88
Adding grade 7 & 8 (ENGLISH)	35	12	20	22	89	1.49
Adding grade 7 & 8 (GIFTED)	54	10	16	20	100	2.08
Other (please comment)	6	2	1	9	18	0.25
Please add comments on your vision for Mutchmor future programs:					24	
					answered question	118
					skipped question	0
						118
						0

From the above table, the responses below were ranked in order of importance to the parents of Mutchmor:

1. Keeping Congregated Gifted
2. Adding Middle French Immersion (MFI)
3. Adding Congregated Gifted grades 7 & 8
4. Adding more Congregated Gifted classes
5. Adding grades 7 & 8 English stream
6. Adding Full Day Kindergarten
7. Adding Early French Immersion (EFI)
8. Expanding the boundaries of the English program

Q5. If your child is in JK-Grade 3, would you consider Middle French Immersion (MFI) (grades 4-6) for them if the program were available at Mutchmor?

Of the respondents that this question applied to, **73%** would consider MFI for their children if MFI were available at Mutchmor.

Q6. If your child is in Grade 4-6, would you have considered Middle French Immersion (grades 4-6) for them if the program had been available at Mutchmor?

Of the respondents that this question applied to, **51%** would have considered MFI for their children. This number may be lower than the response of parents with children in younger grades because some children have already left to attend Hopewell's Middle French Immersion Program.

Q7. Please rank your top 4 program choices for Mutchmor.

For this question, the “rating average” (which is actually a weighted average) should be used to determine which program was most preferred etc. The “Rating Average” value was calculated as follows:

- For every respondent who answered this question, a value of “4” was given to their most preferred option, “3” to second preferred, “2” to third preferred, “1” to fourth preferred and a “0” to any option not ranked in the top 4.
- The total score for each option (ie. EFI) was then divided by 117 to get the “rated average”.

The Ottawa-Carleton School Board prefers that schools offer 2 programs per location. Please rank your top 4 program preferences for Mutchmor.						
Answer Options	1 (most preferred)	2	3	4	Rating Average	Response Count
Early French Immersion (from SK to gr 6)	6	4	11	24	0.70	45
Middle French Immersion (from gr 4 to 6)	10	26	26	19	1.62	81
English (with Core French)	31	19	25	13	2.09	88
Congregated Gifted (gr 1-6)	50	20	12	9	2.50	91
Grade 7 & 8 (ENGLISH)	10	15	10	17	1.04	52
Grade 7 & 8 (GIFTED)	8	27	16	7	1.30	58
Other (please comment)	1	0	0	4	0.07	5
Comments						16
<i>answered question</i>						117
<i>skipped question</i>						1

This table shows that the program preferences ranked in order for Mutchmor are as follows:

1. Congregated Gifted
2. English with Core French
3. Middle French Immersion (MFI)
4. Grade 7 & 8 Congregated Gifted
5. Grade 7 & 8 English
6. Early French Immersion (EFI)

Q8. What community should a community school service?

The Ministry of Education and the Ottawa Carleton School Board support the idea of "community schools". What community do you believe a community school should serve?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Local Catchment area	9.5%	11
Walking distance area (i.e. <2.5km)	28.4%	33
Neighbourhood (ie. the Glebe)	25.9%	30
School Board Zone (ie. Zone 9)	10.3%	12
General Geographical Area (ie. west end, east end, downtown)	8.6%	10
City Wide	9.5%	11
Other (please comment)	7.8%	9
Comments		24
	<i>answered question</i>	116
	<i>skipped question</i>	2

From the responses, it seems that the 54% (63 out of 116) of people believe a community school should service its local area and walking distance children.

Given that the OCDSB has no definition of a “community school”, our parents views will be communicated with our school trustee for incorporation.

Q9. What should a community school include?

In your opinion, what should a "community school" include?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Daycare centres for preschool aged children	33.0%	38
Before and after school care for children	76.5%	88
A single school which offers all elementary programs	35.7%	41
Different schools offering different programs within a community covering all program offerings	44.3%	51
Health care and other community programs offered through the school	14.8%	17
After hours community use of school facilities	55.7%	64
Other (please comment)	1.7%	2
Comments:		13
answered question		115
skipped question		3

A large majority of respondents (77%) felt that before and after care for children should be included in a community school. Similarly, 55% of respondents felt after hours community use of school facilities should be part of a community school.

Q10. In your opinion, what are the positive aspects of Mutchmor? Would you like to see any changes or improvements and what suggestions do you have for them to be implemented? Do you have other thoughts or comments you wish to add relating to your future vision of Mutchmor? Do you have other constructive comments you wish to share?

****Note: Due to the number of responses, parents' comments have been summarized into common themes. Please see Appendix A of this document containing all parent comments for a complete listing of comments.*

Common comment themes:

1. Great teachers (many, many times over this was commented)!
2. Congregated gifted program is very beneficial to students.
3. Good extracurricular opportunities
4. Good parent involvement & council.
5. Add Middle French Immersion (a lot of comments)
6. Add Grade 7 & 8 vs. don't add grades 7 & 8. It would seem to crowd the school both inside and out as there is limited space for outdoor activities which at that level are very important to children (team sports etc.).
7. Great participation of students and their families in the larger community (the wider community, of which Mutchmor is a part)
8. Like the diversity in the school.
9. Mutchmor needs renovations to its classrooms, windows, floors, hallways, basement, etc.

Improvement suggestions:

Suggestions the school may be able to work on or address:

1. Have bathrooms on each floor, renovate the facilities.
2. The area that needs improvement is the communication between class teacher and parents. The communication is expected to be more frequent and more detailed. Also the teaching content is expected to be more visible to parents as well as more detailed class learning info to be shared with parents on a minimal weekly basis.
3. A Lego club or more variety in the lunchtime activities (squirmies all the time???! why not painting, drawing classes too etc) would be appreciated.
4. Be sensitive to diversity when planning for the Dec. holiday assembly. Find out who the Muslim and Jewish kids are and make sure to incorporate elements from each tradition. Some years this happens and some years it doesn't. It happens in some classrooms and not in others, as well
5. i) Lunch starts too early. Mutchmor starts at 9:15, so most kids had their breakfast at around 8:30am, then the lunch at school is at 11:25, most kids go to after-school, they have dinner at around 6pm, from 11:40 to 6pm is pretty long, can we have lunch at 12:15pm?
ii) Lunch time is too short. Most kids complain they don't have time for lunch. 20 mins for lunch is too short because kids need to get their lunch bag, or may go to washroom first, my kid is on 2nd floor, he needs to go to basement for the washroom and that takes him 8 minutes already.
6. Sports and extracurricular activities should be offered and intramurals would be beneficial to promoting health and exercise to children.
7. More variety in the kindergarten curriculum as between JK and SK. What about two kindergarten teachers? Makes sense going towards full day kindergarten.
8. 1) More events which parents can attend with students to engage us more (for example, "bring your parent to school event" on any special day).
2) See more involvement of older students with younger ones throughout the school day (i.e. Older ones read to younger ones, help during computer time, etc).

9. Additional and strengthened French instruction
10. More field trips and connections to the "applied" purposes of education, more Educational Assistants
11. Keep the drain in the school yard for the primary kids clear all winter. It quickly becomes an ice rink which is dangerous for everyone using it.
12. Incorporate more Peace and Human Rights education into the curriculum
13. Template-driven report-cards, for instance, designed not to offend parents of under-performing children, do nothing to help parents understand how they can help improve their children's learning. It's only from parent-teacher interviews that you really learn anything about how your child is doing!
14. A) This school like many could use more arts programs, especially music, a larger library with more resources.
 b) Perhaps a music program could be instituted at the school for children at all levels and one of the empty rooms could become the music room. Music appreciation (whether listening to or learning to play) is an underdeveloped skill that our children lack in today's society. It is easy for those who can afford it to make sure their child gets it but for those who can't, it would be nice for them to have the chance to experience it at school. Art is also another area that could be better incorporated into Mutchmor's vision. By using one of the extra rooms for an art studio, children could explore and experience many different forms of art (and the Glebe community has an abundance of experts that could be utilized in developing this program).

Suggestions that a joint (Council & school) effort is required for:

1. Have a homework club for grades 5 & 6. - (**NOTE: The Glebe Community Centre has a "Homework+" Club**)
2. Improve the facilities. Making the secondary yard more "user-friendly": there should be trees, structures, benches.
3. Like to see the end of classes held in the basement of the school which is "dungeon-like" and depressing. I can't understand the reasoning behind using these rooms as teaching space and I was shocked by them the first time I encountered them.

4. Raising money should benefit the school: buying new furniture and gym equipment, renovating facilities, etc. should be the priority, instead of the subjectively picked so-called "good causes".
5. The reason that First Avenue is bursting at the seams and Mutchmor has declining enrolment is quite simple: immersion is offered at First but not at Mutchmor. We have many friends in the neighbourhood that would prefer to send their children to Mutchmor due to proximity but do not because of this issue. Perhaps a sharing of resources between First and Mutchmor would cause a greater balance between the two schools.
6. With two schools in the community offering different programs, there should be activities to allow First Avenue and Mutchmor students to interact.
7. Commitment to "green" activities

Quotes:

1. My child has blossomed at Mutchmor, and this school should be held as model for other schools in the community. I wish I went to such a school.
2. Mutchmor is a great school. We moved to the area because of this school.
3. I love this school and my children do too!
4. For the future Mutchmor needs to potentially add a third program if English and gifted do not fill the school and nearby schools are overflowing. Limiting our programming to two but enlarging the catchment area of these programs (ex. enlarging the catchment for English) would only increase the bussing and therefore cost associated with bussing, not to mention the environmental issues of stinky buses and lack of exercise for children being bussed past a closer school to Mutchmor because of their program choice.
5. Every child should be able to have the Mutchmor experience.
6. The other day my son made a point of telling me "I don't just like school, Dad, I LOVE it." Sounds like you guys are doing things right!

Appendix A – Parental Comments

Mutchmor Parent Survey Results - March 2010 - Parent Comments from Question 10 ***NOTE: comments have been edited to ensure anonymity

Q10. In your opinion, what are the positive aspects of Mutchmor? Would you like to see any changes or improvements and what suggestions do you have for them to be implemented? Do you have other thoughts or comments you wish to add relating to your future vision of Mutchmor? Do you have other constructive comments you wish to share?

1 Adding Grade 7 & 8 (ENGLISH) and Middle French Immersion (from gr 4 to 8) will be the most valuable decision for Mutchmor school.

2 My child has blossomed at Mutchmor, and this school should be held as model for other schools in the community. I wish I went to such a school.

3 Mutchmor is a great school. we moved to the area because of this school. It was one of the best academic programs and very interesting school program throughout the year. we just love it!

4 Mutchmor is a great community school! We are blessed with a fantastic, dedicated, group of administrators and teachers. The yard is a friendly place for parents and children alike. The kids have many many extra-curriculum opportunities - drama, sports, robotics! I would like to see a sports program though that gives all kids an opportunity to be on a sports team and not just the ones that are most gifted. From my experience, we haven't had a problem with bullying because it was cracked down on early on by the principal. I encourage this to continue. Overall, I can't say enough about our teachers, administrators, and community!

Fabulous Gifted program and teachers

Good opportunity for the use of the Corpus Christi / community play area

5 Good parent involvement

we think mutchmor is so great because it is a small family with parents and kids that really care about their school community

although our child is much older, we specifically chose JK SK that did full day programs i think they are great and half day is a ridiculous idea, esp. for SK so fully endorse full day

6 kindergarten programs

7 ALL SCHOOLS HAVE POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES...I AM NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY HERE

Mutchmor has created a positive, nurturing environment for children to learn and play. It's unique because it has children from both the local catchment and outside the community who attend the gifted program. It's distinct from First Avenue since it offers the English (with Core French Program).

Those of us who live in the catchment are extremely lucky. I know this, as I transferred my children out of a private elementary school to take advantage of all that Mutchmor has to offer.

I am not clear on what, if any, changes or improvements are required. For example, is enrollment declining? If yes, what is the reason? Is there a "problem" we are trying to fix?

8 All schools should consider the future - but they cannot be all things to everyone - or they risk pleasing no one. I recommend that Mutchmor build on its success - rather than changing its focus.

Positive aspects of Mutchmor: Mutchmor has great school spirit and children who enjoy learning. There is a lot of parent involvement, and that decreases behaviour issues before and after school. Mutchmor is a safe place for children to learn and be themselves, and are encouraged to be creative and unique. I love this school and my children do too!

9 I would love to see grade 7&8 also offered at Mutchmor, then kids could be a part of this school longer.

10 We have had a very positive experience at Mutchmor. We are only in Ottawa for one year and were very fortunate to have our child taught by an excellent and caring teacher. The students have the added benefit of various optional programs supported by the teaching staff and the parent body. I hope Mutchmor will continue as we have experienced it.

11 Good school and teachers.
Nice teachers and facilities.

12 I guess my child would be happy if Mutchmor had a bigger playground and facilities if possible.

I love Mutchmor Public School. My son goes there for congregated gifted program. I have one concern that teachers should not be away from class for a long period of time it disrupts the routine and also by the time kids get use to the new teacher its time for the old one to come back.

13 Mutchmor has an excellent congregated gifted program. I wish it had grade 7 and 8 so that kids didn't have to move and leave their friends at this age. It is hard at this age to make new friends. This is the only community they have known since grade one. Those

are my thoughts.

- *Small, community school feeling
- *Wonderful, committed teachers
- *Variety of classes in English at each grade level
- *Strong core French
- *Mutchmor could have a homework club for kids in Gr. 5/6.
- *Mutchmor could be more sensitive to diversity when planning for the Dec. holiday assembly. Find out who the Muslim and Jewish kids are and make sure to incorporate elements from each tradition. Some years this happens and some years it doesn't. I do note it happens in some classrooms and not in others, as well.
- *I would love to see Mutchmore incorporate more Peace and Human Rights education into the curriculum. Again, some classrooms do and some don't.

14 Thanks to everyone who makes Mutchmor such a special place.

Mutchmor is a wonderful neighbourhood school. I would love to see my children, now in grades 5 and 6, and one who won't start kindergarten until 2012, continue there for grades 7 and 8. We moved to Ottawa 3 years ago from Toronto and I couldn't be more

15 pleased with the teachers and staff in particular.

16 great school! - strong teachers - English programs only

My son is thrilled to go to school at Mutchmor each day. As a result, as parents, we are thrilled with Mutchmor.

The reason that First Avenue is bursting at the seams and Mutchmor has declining enrolment is quite simple: French immersion is offered at First but not at Mutchmor. We have many friends in the neighbourhood that would prefer to send their children to Mutchmor due to proximity but do not because of this issue. Perhaps a sharing of resources between First and Mutchmor would cause a greater balance between the two

17 schools

Positives:

=-small school

=-caring teachers

=-great location

18 -It would be great to keep students up to grade 8 and offer middle immersion

The positives of Mutchmor are the congregated gifted program. For the future Mutchmor needs to potentially add a third program if English and gifted do not fill the school and nearby schools are overflowing. Limiting our programming to two but enlarging the catchment area of these programs (ex. enlarging the catchment for English) would only increase the bussing and therefore cost associated with bussing, not to mention the environmental issues of stinky buses and lack of exercise for children
19 being bussed past a closer school to Mutchmor because of their program choice.

congregated gifted - incredible resource, I absolutely do not believe the needs of all the gifted kids can be met in their home schools
English - having an English only school is essential to let those kids be first class citizens in their own school, rather than the dumping ground that occurs in mixed English and
20 immersion schools at a primary level

Some Suggestions:

1. Lunch starts too early.

Mutchmor starts at 9:15, so most kids had their breakfast at around 8:30am, then the lunch at school is at 11:25, most kids go to after-school, they have dinner at around 6pm, from 11:40 to 6pm is pretty long, can we have lunch at 12:15pm?

2. Lunch time is too short.

Most kids complain they don't have time for lunch.

20 mins for lunch is too short because kids need to get their lunch bag, or may go to washroom first, my kid is on 2nd floor, he needs to go to basement for washroom, that takes him 8 minutes already.

3. Need washroom on each floor.

In addition, is it possible to have washroom on each floor? Right now, for example, my
21 kid's classroom is on second floor, he has to go all the way to basement for washroom.

small school with caring, experienced, and trained teachers

-staff are respectful of student differences, understanding of needs of gifted students
22 -strong parent council

the strength and calibre of the teaching staff

- the gifted program brings up the whole level of the school

support strongly the addition of grade 7 & 8 if classroom space allows for it - English & English gifted - two neighbourhood schools already offer early and middle French immersion - that shouldn't be Mutchmor's focus

- i believe in promotion of excellence in a school - rather than catering everything to everyone - a school should focus on its strength; if that attracts people from outside the
23 community that's a positive.

Without a doubt the #1 value of Mutchmor is its teaching staff: committed, engaged, energetic, able and willing to think laterally, always with a view to helping the children.

My criticisms if I have any are more directed to the constraints that the ministry of education imposes on schools and teachers. Template-driven report-cards, for instance, designed not to offend parents of under-performing children, do nothing to help parents understand how they can help improve their children's learning. It's only from parent-teacher interviews that you really learn anything about how your child is doing!

24 Regarding Mutchmor as a school, I believe money for renovations would be a good thing! Special needs education is in serious danger of extinction and should be protected!

25 The positive aspects of Mutchmor is the parents of the school are very involved. Seems the curricular covered in classroom varies a lot in different classroom, if school can have same teaching content to follow for different classroom, it'll be nice.

If there are empty classrooms, as this survey suggests, I would like to see the end of classes held in the basement of the school which is "dungeon-like" and depressing. I can't understand the reasoning behind using these rooms as teaching space and I was shocked by them the first time I encountered them.
I would love to see Mutchmor move to becoming a JK to grade 8 school in order to reduce the amount of school changes a child goes through in their pre-post secondary years and to avoid the middle school model.

26

Mutchmor is just the right physical size to offer a comfortable, safe environment to students. Teachers really care and class sizes are manageable so individual children can flourish as such.
This school like many could use more arts programs, especially music, a larger library with more resources.
Sports and extracurricular activities should be offered and intermurals would be beneficial to promoting health and exercise to children.
With two schools in the community offering different programs, there should be activities to allow First Avenue and Mutchmor students to interact.

27

dedication of the teachers in the congregated gifted program.
I think that the gifted program should be expanded at Mutchmor to include grades 7 and 8

28

It's friendly community. The area that needs improvement is the communication between class teacher and parents.

29 The communication is expected to be more frequent and more detailed. Also the teaching content is expected to be more visible to parents as well as more detailed class learning info to be shared with parents on a minimal weekly basis.

Mutchmor is a very diverse school in cultures and knowledge. The calibre of the teaching staff is excellent.

30 The teachers are very knowledgeable and supportive of their students. The level of play in the school yard is also a marked difference between Mutchmor and other schools. Mutchmor's educational environment exceeds our expectations and we couldn't be happier with the staff at Mutchmor from the professional and caring office staff, to the custodians, to the teachers. Every child should be able to have the Mutchmor experience.

positive: Public school

+ Great teachers!

+ Good relationship between families and the school

+ great participation of students and their families in the larger community (the wider community, of which Mutchmor is a part)

+ Good programs

31 + Excellent core French

So far so good. My son is in 2nd grade, and since he left kindergarten he is much, much happier - in fact,

he looks forward to school; just the other day made a point of telling me "I don't just like school, Dad, I LOVE it." Sounds like you guys are doing things right! I do feel my son is scholastically under challenged, but that is more related to the curriculum and teaching style than the school. A Lego club or more variety in the lunchtime activities (squirmies all the time???! why not painting, drawing classes too etc) would be

32 appreciated.

The staff at Mutchmor are absolutely wonderful, hard-working and dedicated individuals.

My children have been attending Mutchmor over the past 7 years and we are a family that crosses the boundary. We have always felt welcomed into this community school and community atmosphere. It has a great central location to many of Ottawa's great attractions.

I'm not sure adding a Grade 7-8 program would be in Mutchmor's best interest. To me, it would seem to crowd the school both inside and out as there is limited space for outdoor activities which at that level are very important to children (team sports etc.) Perhaps a music program could be instituted at the school for children at all levels and one of the empty rooms could become the music room. Music appreciation (whether listening to or learning to play) is an underdeveloped skill that our children lack in today's society. It is easy for those who can afford it to make sure their child gets it but for those who can't, it would be nice for them to have the chance to experience it at school. Art is also another area that could be better incorporated into Mutchmor's vision. By using one of the extra rooms for an art studio, children could explore and experience many different forms of art (and the Glebe community has an abundance of experts that could
33 be utilized in developing this program).

34 I would like to see more French immersion. Low student population.

I chose Mutchmor because it is in the area, and offered slightly smaller class sizes. Also, it's a public school with an inclusive atmosphere. I have been very happy with the school these past few months, however, my child will not be returning next year
35 because it is very important to us that he attends French immersion.

LOVE Mutchmor.

It has been a great school for my two gifted children who live in Old Ottawa South and would otherwise have had to attend a huge school like Hopewell Public School. We have really liked that Mutchmor goes until Grade 6, after which they head to Glashan Middle School, which well prepares them for the independence they will REQUIRE at high school. This is why I would not advocate grade 7 and 8 at Mutchmor. In our opinion, the gifted teachers at Mutchmor have consistently been high quality; mentoring and
36 memorable which is the most important aspect of Mutchmor's success.

Suggestions:

- Making the secondary yard more "user-friendly": there should be trees, structures, benches;

- Raising money should benefit the school: buying new furniture and gym equipment, renovating facilities, etc. should be the priority, instead of the subjectively picked so-called "good causes";

Letting parent-volunteers use the school facilities for the free-of-charge after-hours and
37 weekend activities, such as group music lessons, drama club, choir, sports, etc.

The programme for gifted students is great!

38 I would like to have the programme expanded to include Grade 7/8 English and gifted French immersion.

Excellent teaching staff in gifted program; sensitive and supportive to the special needs of gifted children (like emotional needs).

Congregating gifted program at Mutchmor has been superb for both our son (now at Glashan) and our daughter (currently at Mutchmor)

39 Lots of extra-curricular activities

I think Mutchmor is an excellent school and serves our family very well.

Enhancing the offering of gifted classes, particularly at the primary level, would be a big draw for additional students and would enhance the school. Some French immersion programming would also be beneficial.

As far as physical improvements are concerned, I think the play ground for the junior students needs a LOT of work as right now it is only a large piece of asphalt.

I think that supporting a community of children with similar needs is the most cost effective for the school board. From this perspective, Mutchmor effectively meets the needs of gifted children and is a flagship program within the province. I believe that this program should be expanded and that Mutchmor has both the physical space and the ability and experience to effectively expand the program. I am looking forward to seeing

40 how the program could expand at Mutchmor.

A positive aspect of Mutchmor is the active parent council.

Teachers are committed and it is a safe and nurturing school

The idea of adding a gifted 7 and 8 program would be welcomed. It appears as if there are more candidates than spots for gifted classes in the catchment area so adding

41 additional JR classes would be welcomed.

Our son has attended Mutchmor's gifted program for 4 years now, and we cannot say enough about the quality of the teachers he has add across the board consistently... We hope this will be maintained for a long time to come, and we would think the addition of a grade 7/8 gifted program would further enhance the overall learning opportunities for

42 our son and his classmates...

Mutchmor is a small and friendly school and I am happy with my daughter attending this school. My son is due to start JK in September. I would like to see additional variety in the kindergarten curriculum.

43 Finally I would be in favour of implementing a middle immersion programme, we will be signing my daughter up for middle immersion at Hopewell but her being able to remain

at Muchmor for this program would be more favourable.

44 a high tolerance of difference, a genuine feeling of community and community participation. we love having our kids at mutchmor.

The main positive aspects of Mutchmor for us are:

- It provides the valuable congregated gifted program.
- it is within easy walking distance from home (even though we do not live in the Glebe).
- It is a Good size for younger students

I think it would great if Mutchmor could offer grade 7-8 classes. This would allow those kids to stay in their immediate neighbourhood rather than trekking down to (over-subscribed) Hopewell PS.

45

The sense of community and shared values is Mutchmor's greatest asset - the kids feel safe, excited about learning, and connected to the other students and their teachers. They trust that the adults around them care about their learning and their development, they respect their teachers and their peers, and they are learning. What more could you possible ask for? (oh, except that I would like to keep our Grade 3 child at Mutchmor - and we certainly would if MFI were offered here, and I know I'm not alone in this)

46

Positive aspects:

- Mutchmor has an involved school council;
- Some of the teachers manage to teach to the class as a whole while accommodating the needs of the individual (no mean feat);
- small school

Suggestions for improvement:

- Better French instruction
 - more compassionate principal
 - Commitment to "green" activities
 - More field trips and connections to the "applied" purposes of education
- 47 -more Educational Assistants

I like the proximity to my home and the feeling of community, having my children with friends from close by. I'm also happy with the teachers and the many different ways we can volunteer without bring "forced" into it.

48

Diverse school population - I love that one of my daughters good friends has Down's Syndrome - teaching her that we are all the same & different at the same time. The Glebe does not offer many opportunities for this and it should be celebrated by the school. ESL students, gifted students provide a great environment for my kids to grow

49

up in.

English speaking. Teachers are caring and know the students at the school very well. Parents also know the teachers and feel comfortable in talking with the staff at the school.

I would like to see the school go up to Grade 8 as for us we would go to Hopewell. I have had two other children attend Hopewell for Grade 7 and 8. First one liked it very much. I didn't as you didn't have the parent/teacher contact as you did at Mutchmor. The second child did not enjoy their time at Hopewell as staff changed and he did not receive the same teaching as the first child. He didn't have any homework at all only projects which isn't very much. He is now paying for it as he attends Glebe and has homework every night. It did not prepare him for high school.

It would be great if they could continue at Mutchmor as it wouldn't be a big change for them to attend another school.

I attended Mutchmor and then Hopewell and then Glebe. Hopewell is a big school and their English program is not big. My son was there last year and they only had one class for the English speaking and he had to have Phys. Ed with the girls in his class as they couldn't mix the french immersion class of boys with them as they had to be instructed in French. He didn't like it and neither did I. He had been with another French class the year before but everything changed last year. My daughter who attended before him had about five Grade 7 and 8 english classes which really changed when my son went to
50 Hopewell which was only two years later.

Mutchmor is a community school, but we must not loose sight of this. In order to retain this positive aspect of our school we have to encourage and reward volunteering, community involvement and parental involvement in the school. With busy lives it is easy for us to take for granted what we have at Mutchmor. We need to take on more
51 school projects that involve the children, their parents and the community.

Positive Aspects:

Child centric approach to teaching

Smaller school

Choice for an English with core French - especially for those who have come here after the entry points for Fr. Immersion.

Fantastic Community oriented school - strong links with the community centre, fantastic competent and involved staff

Changes:

1. Like to see Mutchmor become another Middle Fr. Immersion option in our area

52 2. Like to see Mutchmor expand to include Middle School (7&8)

I think Mutchmor is a wonderful school.

53 I'd love to see MFI offered there.

Positive: good school, close by, good programs, but I would wish we expose our kids to more advanced programs. We should all be aware what are the programs around the world and strive for the best. Why would we have separate IB program? Are we saying our kids are not capable to do that? I think we can teach our kids to be creative and smart at the same time without frustrating them! We just need to start early and make sure our kids learn that everyone is good at something: some at math some at soccer, and very very rarely someone is good at most of the things.

54 I think we have started to teach our kids that they are good at everything by lowering school criteria, and I do not think anyone is benefiting from that!

We have been at Mutchmor for only a year, and moved there for the congregated gifted program. I cannot stress strongly enough the positive effect that participation in this program has had on our daughter. She is finally with other children who think in a similarly offbeat manner, and who are able to keep up with her (and challenge her) academically. She has a teacher who knows how to challenge her (as opposed to her last school, where her grade 3 teacher bemoaned the fact that she had 'no math peers in the entire school -- even grade six -- we don't know what to do with her'. The solution was to have her become the 'teachers helper'.) As a result, she now loves school, comes home excited about what she is learning, and is growing - both emotionally and intellectually - by leaps and bounds. I believe it would be beneficial to continue the gifted program at mutchmor up to Grade 8, so the children can continue to develop within this excellent setting. By that time, they will be confident and mature enough to move on to a different cohort, as it is unlikely that the group will be able to remain

55 together.

Mutchmor is an excellent school for our community. It is the right size (<400) so that children do not feel lost. Personally we were very lucky to have an English school in our neighbourhood as our child could not cope with First Avenue French Immersion and was highly stressed about leaving.

56 As I wrote earlier, I would like to see a more multi-cultural mix, perhaps achieved by increasing the catchment to the North. This might also require an ESL program.

Smaller size of the school is good for up to grade six.

57 Location of school is good for local students and serving congregated programs

I like the active parent council, the daycare within the school, and the school's willingness to accept cross boundary transfers. The school also has a very good academic rating. I also like the green space it provides to the community.

The main suggestions would be to keep the drain in the school yard for the primary kids clear all winter. It quickly becomes an ice rink which is dangerous for everyone using it.

58 I would also like to see the daycare remain part of the school. I believe that quality non-profit daycares are important.

59 We think that Mutchmor is a wonderful school! That's why we chose it. I like not having French Immersion at Mutchmor - that is WHY our child is attending. We hope that the strong English program stays at the heart of the school.

High academic standards

Strong teachers who work together, share best practices and create a community of support amongst themselves.

The congregated gifted program.

The community ties.

60 An infusion of money for capital improvements is absolutely necessary. Other old area schools have received this type of funding (Hopewell, First Avenue). Mutchmor also needs renovations to its classrooms, windows, floors, hallways, etc.

61 My kids feel safe, are able to walk to school, are offered French everyday.

62 It would be nice to see more children from our own community attending this school. By offering a full range of programs, my kids would have more opportunity to get to know the children within the community. It's not that I disagree with the cultural diversity that some programs bring to our school, but so many kids are bussed in from outside that my kids don't have a chance to build those relationships when kids are whisked away because they live out of the area.

63 Like the size of the school and the teachers

suggestion:

1) More events which parents can attend with students would engage us more (for example, "bring your parent to school event" on Valentines Day, or any other special day).

64 2) See more involvement of older students with younger ones throughout the school day (i.e. Older ones read to younger ones, help during computer time, etc).

65 Mutchmor has a positive environment.

Positive aspects of Mutchmor:

Congregated Gifted program

Small school population

Great yard compared to First Avenue Public

Great extra-curricular activities such as cross country running, soccer, lego robotics

Great teaching staff

Improvements:

Core French program has until this year has been weak and does not prepare students for the transfer to Glashan though our last child who is in now grade 5 is learning

66 considerably more French than his older sibling who attended Mutchmor

67 The teaching is very high quality and proactive. This school is very well established and recognized within the community for it's inclusivity.

Having had two children now go through mutchmor I can comfortably say it is a very good school.

For me one of the most important components was feeling that we were in a one class system school.

I feel that putting both French and English programmes under the same roof can only be detrimental to the neighbourhood.

It gives opportunity to create a 'them and us' situation which can be sole destroying, look at Hopewell for an example. Adults in that neighborhood are forced to make the choice between two streams for their kids. Can my kid excel at French or can they only cope with English. That is not a fair choice.

68 Mutchmor provides a safe place for those kids for whatever reason want to take their studies in English. It would be a shame if this were overlooked.

Mutchmor school has truly been a lifesaver for my daughter who was having trouble coping in French immersion at first Avenue public school. The fact that she had to switch schools at all was difficult for her. Mutchmor made this process very easy for us.

I am not a great fan of the gifted program. I believe all children have gifts. I find the way that giftedness is assessed and then communicated to families and children by the board is appalling. One of my daughters received a letter telling her (to paraphrase) that she had been tested and found to be "not"gifted. I then had to spend a lot of time explaining to her that she did have gifts but that the board hadn't yet found a way to assess them with their testing. I understand that there are political reasons for having a gifted program and that there are limited spaces in this program and as such performance measures on a standardized test are set very high. Therefore few children are accepted into these programs. As such I really cannot support further expansion of the gifted program because I'm not sure what it really offers to the community. At the very least the name "gifted" should go until the board finds a way of assessing all children's gifts.

69 Bilingualism is a reality in our city and our region. Being bilingual will allow one to have more access to jobs in this region in the future. I believe all children should have access to this if they choose this path. we need more flexibility in our bilingual programs. The reality is that some children have more difficulty with reading than others and throwing them into a bilingual program early on is very difficult for them. These children could be offered a second chance in the middle immersion program.

70 I love the connection between the school and the surrounding neighbourhood, and wouldn't want that to be lost. I like the fact that most children who attend Mutchmor can walk to school in the morning, and say hi to friends and neighbours along the way. It creates such a positive sense of community, which the children come to value without even realizing it. Fri, Mar 12, 2010 11:51 PM Find...

71 The close-knit nature of the community is a real plus, but I'd like to see even more community-building activities.

The Gifted Program and the uniqueness this brings to the school
the gifted teachers are a positive aspect to the school
the demographics are a positive aspect to the school
Playgrounds & activities for the children should be improved
Sports programs and instruction could be improved
More parental involvement within school council
Vision - keep the gifted program open and even expand as we feel this defines the culture and uniqueness of the school.
72 Thank-you!

Positive aspects of Mutchmor are: inspiring learning environment such as library, choir, sports activities, bound of rich and nice experiences of teachers, etc.
Would like to see improvements: suggested the school board to add around 40 minutes in French teaching and gifted 7&8 added.

73 Mutchmor is still a most welcoming school for students.

74 My son has been on the Gifted waiting list for 4 years. Ridiculous that he can't get a spot in his own school!

Mutchmor is such an excellent school that after a few months of having our children bussed to Mutchmor for their Gifted classes, we decided to move house and buy a house in the Glebe--just so that our children could be close to this school.

1. A large enough Congregated Gifted program that there is a "critical mass" of Gifted kids. This is essential for: a) social reasons, so that the Gifted kids do not feel unusual or rejected by others b) ability for Gifted teachers to plan and deliver programs as a team
2. School is relatively small, so children / teachers / parents can get to know each other
3. Some exceptional teachers on staff. I've come to know several who are self-motivated to go "above and beyond". These are all stronger teachers than any of those my children had at their former private \$\$\$\$ school.

75 4. strong CORE FRENCH program!

Its teachers! The staff love our kids, and more than that, they are professional teachers who are constantly upgrading their knowledge on their own time, taking courses and reading, changing their program every year to make it better. My kids all had one teacher in primary for 3 years between them, who taught math in such a smart, creative way that my husband and I would look forward to getting our hands on the math homework just so we could see what she'd come up with next - and the kids loved it - more than loved it. Especially in the gifted program (which I know more about), they invent materials and lessons and units to enrich the program for their kids in all areas. They use textbooks only where it suits the needs of the kids and then turn to real books and media and experts and their own creativity to expand our kids' understanding and imagination. They offer extracurricular activities left, right and centre on their own time and the kids say they really seem to enjoy them. They sensitively but directly teach social skills that kids need to learn in that kind of setting and work with gifted parents to get our kids organized. They do it all!

When you have great teachers, you get more great teachers. This is the reputation of Mutchmor in the community. Please do everything you can to support and renew and hire so that you continue with the great learning environment the teachers have created for our kids! And THANK YOU!!!!

76