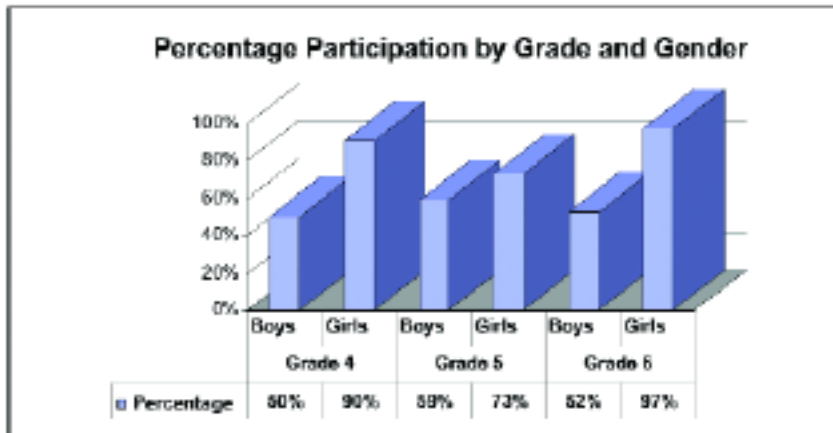


Silver Birch Award program at EDWARD JOHNSON SCHOOL

PARENTS' SURVEY



The parents' survey was limited this year to the families of the 40 children invited to attend the Silver Birch Awards ceremony in Toronto. They received a questionnaire asking about the impact of Silver Birch on their children and recommendations for improvements. Thirty-one parents responded, itself a testament to their enthusiasm. Next year a more thorough survey is planned. The comments were enthusiastic about the impact on their children, indeed the whole family. The recommendation that was repeated over and over was to please continue and a few suggested more copies of the books.

Reading Profile

Case Study

Vol Students	# of Participants	Percent	# Ballots Cast	Read all 20	# Fiction Read	# Non-Fiction
53 Grade 4's	35	66 %	27	9	142	168
49 Grade 5's	32	65.3 %	33	8	137	191
54 Grade 6's	42	77.7 %	30	9	148	182

TOTALS	157	109	69.4 %	90	26 students	427	541
Jr. students	participants	participated	ballots cast	read all 20	Fiction read	Non-fiction	

However, the latter comment was always qualified with a recognition of cost along with other solutions such as public library borrowing, purchases for home library, pleasure that students spent their allowance to buy their own or asked for Silver Birch books as gifts.

The following aspects were identified and received most positive remarks:

- introduces different books, styles and genres
- reading instead of computers, TV or video games
- led to book talks at home
- love the conferencing approach
- fosters a love of reading
- promotes Canadian culture, sense of identity
- authors were available
- led us to the public library too
- gave us good books to buy for our home
- reading non-fiction for fun
- non-fiction especially led to wonderful family talk
- still talking about the Toronto Festival
- my child read more
- it is fun
- promotes Canadian literature

Silver Birch Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading

