

BARRY MACDONALD

Visits CSS



On Thursday, January 27th, Barry MacDonald shared amusing stories and serious insights with a sell-out crowd of 400 interested parents. He had us laughing out loud while encouraging us to re-think our parenting perspectives. And while Barry is best known as the founder of MentoringBoys.com and best-selling author of "Boy Smarts", he offered great tips on how better to parent both girls and boys:

- Recognize that all girls are not alike and all boys are not alike. Appreciate those differences and adjust your parenting accordingly
- Play video games with your kids. Not only will you have something new in common to talk about, but it will help you better assess which gaming titles you feel are age-appropriate
- Accept that sibling bickering is normal – about 4 times an hour
- Take advantage of time in the car and walks around the neighbourhood to raise awkward or challenging topics of conversation with your kids

For more of Barry's parenting ideas, contact the CSS library to arrange to borrow a copy of "Boy Smarts". The school library's collection includes a range of parenting titles. For a complete overview of how to borrow books from the CSS library or to read brief reviews of a few of the parenting titles available, check out pages 19 and 20 of the September 2010 Spectrum. Past issues of the Spectrum are available at:

www.issuu.com/calgaryscienceschool

One of the ways School Council strives to enhance learning at CSS is by providing opportunities for parent involvement – through volunteering and parent education. Fortunately, we had some monies available as the result of a private fundraising event held last fall, so when the opportunity arose, we were able to engage Barry for one evening.

Thanks to the generous support of Jackie Stewart and girlfriends, we were able to offer CSS parents bargain-priced tickets. And thanks to volunteer students from

CSS we could provide free babysitting services, making the evening very affordable for CSS families. CSS parents (and others) responded enthusiastically, selling-out the event in less than two weeks!

Members of the organizing committee did a great job pulling together support for the event:

- Deb Miles arranged for Loblaws / Superstore to sponsor the refreshments for the evening
- Julie Freedman Smith and Gail Bell from Parenting Power provided free advertising for the event and donated three door prizes
- Barry MacDonald also donated two door prizes: "Boy Smarts" and "Boys on Target"

On behalf of School Council, I'd like to thank all of the supporters and sponsors for the evening; the members of the organizing committee (listed on page 12); the volunteer babysitters; and our on-the-spot parent volunteers, who helped stack chairs, put away equipment and clean up the gym at the end of the evening. Finally thanks to all of you who took a couple of hours out of your busy schedules to share some laughs and acquire some new ideas for parenting your children. All-in-all, it was an enjoyable and educational evening.

Denise Kitagawa
on behalf of School Council