

Applewood School Cares!

In September, our Primary Me to We (Grades 1-3) club researched then voted on what we would like the agenda for our first term to be. The students read the story, *The Magic Beads* by Susin Nielsen-Fernlund and then decided that they would like to raise money for our local women and children's shelter. The students created a list of ideas of how students could make a difference and then decided that they would like to hold a toy sale. On December 1 the students donated gently used toys and then went "shopping", buying items priced at \$0.25, \$0.50, \$0.75 and \$1.00. The event was also attended by parents and neighbours of Applewood. The students raised \$158.00! A representative from Gillian's Place will be visiting the school on Friday, December 18 to receive the cheque. The Grade 3 students handled the money, making change, sorting and counting to get to our final total.

Our youngest students are very proud of themselves. They are realizing that they are able to make a difference in someone else's life, especially at a magical time like Christmas. It is a wonderful gift!

At our Holiday production entitled *Paint the Town December*, in lieu of a fee as many schools are charging, the Applewood community is asking that each family attending our concert donate a canned good or a hat, scarf or pair of mittens that will go to Community Care.

One of our students, Keegan C, is going one step further. Keegan has created a beautiful basket of Christmas goodies and is selling raffle tickets during recess and lunch hours in order to raise money to donate to a shelter that his grandmother supports. A family of one of our junior students, Madison, has donated 5 baskets as well. Great job, Keegan and Madison!

For the past few years, our staff has played a wonderful game at our annual staff Christmas party. Early in December, we each draw a name and then buy a toy for the person whose name is drawn. We try to make the gift personal such as a toy piano for our musically-gifted Kindergarten teacher. We then donate all the gifts to charity in Applewood's name. A representative from Community Care will be picking up the gifts on Friday.

Here are some updates from the Junior grades:

Our 4/5 class decided to collect Canadian Tire money to purchase gifts for students who might not have anything for Christmas. I told them that Ferndale students had done this in the past, and they liked the idea. We decided that donating the gifts to Community Care would be an efficient way to distribute the toys. The whole school supported the cause and we raised \$178.00 in Canadian Tire money. The whole class helped count the money, then some of the students went with me to purchase the gifts. We discussed how to make our money go further (i.e. buy more lower priced items, buy things on sale, and use coupons). It was a good learning experience for the students.

For the past four months, the Grade 5/6 students of Applewood Public School have been involved with a unique international educational program called the One World Youth Project which has transformed how our students view themselves and interpret the rest of the world.

The One World Youth Project is a unique sister-school program for elementary and high school students, linking groups in the US/Canada with groups from around the world together in learning partnerships for the purpose of community service toward the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Currently, there are 32 students at Applewood Public School participating in this program. Our Grade 5/6 Class is teamed up with a class of students from Kosovo.

This unique educational program has provided our students the opportunity to write penpal letters to children across the world, work on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, develop Canadian Culture Maps, send Canadian Culture Packages to their new friends and develop empathy for others who find themselves under difficult circumstances. Our students have come to the realization that issues like poverty, hunger, HIV / Aids, environmental sustainability and gender equality are not just issues for other nations to worry about, but global issues that they have a responsibility to help solve.

One of the main components of the One World Youth Project program is for each participating school to organize and run a community service project to work on the Millennium Development Goal that they have been assigned. Applewood Public School has been assigned Millennium Development Goal #1, Eradication of Poverty and Hunger. Our class has decided to run a button campaign, titled ***The World is In Our Hands***, to raise awareness and money to help eliminate poverty and hunger around the world. The students have designed a logo that represents their thoughts on eliminating poverty and hunger around the world and are currently developing a fact sheet on the need to stop the spread of poverty and hunger across the globe. We plan to sell the buttons, and the accompanying information sheet, for \$2.00 with all proceeds being donated to the Sleeping Children Around the World to purchase bed kits and Community Care for local distribution. Our button campaign will start in mid January 2010.

I am so proud of our staff and students. We are a small school, but we have a lot of heart and our students should be extremely proud of their many accomplishments. They are learning to be generous, kind and showing that they understand that they can be the change that they would like to see in the world! Way to go, Applewood!

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