



A Baby Shower was held at the Five Islands Community Centre on Jan. 15th for Krystle Davis, shown here with 3 year old son Braxton McCulley. Krystle lives in Parrsboro but is formerly from Five Islands, daughter of Angie and Robbie Davis, owners of Diane's restaurant. (Harrington photo)

Clifton 4-H Club News

By Marla McNutt, Club Reporter

The Clifton 4-H club had their January meeting on Tuesday the 4th. Our general meeting had updates from the cake, dairy, photography and sewing projects. All project newsletters for the New Year were handed out. Our Club Rally is set to be on March 5, 2011. All members were asked to donate items for Catherine Burrows' trip to Honduras in February. Donations such as gently worn shoes (all sizes), soap, toothpaste and anything else are greatly needed and appreciated.

With this year being our 75th anniversary we are having a logo contest. The logo needs to incorporate the 4-H logo and indicate 75 on it, the due date is March 1, 2011 our next general meeting. The logos will be on display at the Club Rally and up for vote. Anyone can enter, but the limit is two logos per person. The winner will receive a jacket with the new logo. Another clothing fundraiser is going to take place soon.

Other 4-H dates that have been set are Colchester Rally on March 26, Regional Rally on April 16, Judging on May 25 and Achievement day on July 15.

Public Education in Turmoil

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bad guy and we're not doing anything we weren't told to do". Meanwhile, government and NSTU are in contract negotiations for the provinces 11,700 teachers. The current contract expires July 31, 2011.

Following release of the report, CCRSB announced a schedule of public meetings in all areas covered by the board. Turn outs at the various locations has varied. In Parrsboro with a student population of 300+, approximately 150 parents attended the information session. In the areas which act as feeder system for Central Consolidated Junior High, Lower Onslow, student population exceeds 1,200. Approximately, 150 adults attended the presentation on January 18th much less than anticipated. Meetings will continue in various areas including Bible Hill Junior High and Hants East Rural High School on Wednesday, January 26th. The meetings will conclude at Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro on Thursday, January 27th starting at 7:00 pm.

Late last week, Education Minister Ramona Jennex, who was appointed to the position in the cabinet shuffle the previous week, says she stepped into a "storm, and wants the storm to be settled. She said, "The numbers and the scenarios that are being tossed around were never ever intended that the government would ever be doing that".

Board vice-chair, MacKenzie says the government has told the boards it will no longer cover salary and inflation increases, which for the last few years has amounted to approximately 3.5% of the board's annual budget.

At the Onslow meeting, board representatives constantly reminded, that the figures being quoted were only one version from the exercise and that nothing had been decided or implemented. Only a handful of parents had questions or observations. Jim

Lorraine raised several points including students taking French immersion in elementary, but have to leave the program for grades 10, 11 and 12, in order to qualify for bursaries and scholarships. He noted that all programs must be looked at but in tight times, some school day trips might need to be reviewed or cancelled.

Karen Casey, MLA, in responding to the presentation said that savings can be found in all areas of business or government departments, but never to the magnitude of what the boards were asked to do.

She continued, to fix the system and get costs in line, making cuts is not the correct way. The only way is to determine the outcome you want. What do you expect from the education system? Then you sit down and determine what it takes to deliver that outcome.

What doesn't fit into that

Great Village Community Association News

By Linda Shears

Winners of the Christmas raffle tickets in December were: Joanne Griffon (the little snowmen); Karen Weatherby (Santa) and Brock Chisholm (the big snowman).

On January 18, the Community Association held an executive meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Canada Day planning is progressing well; the venue will be the Faith Baptist Church and grounds. Organizers are encouraging participation from all communities in the Debert to Five Islands region. An important planning session is scheduled for January 25.

Nova Scotia Select is providing assistance for "The Incredible Meal", a celebration of local foods. This will take place on February 19 as an evening meal, with a menu consisting of homemade brown bread and beans with local blueberries and apples in the desserts. A donation of stone ground organic flour from Speerville Flour Mill in New Brunswick will ensure

that the bread also has a local flavour.

A seven-week beekeeping course is being held in the Community Hall, from January 25 to March 8, instructed by Tony Phillips. A Home Business Showcase is planned for May 28 to promote small businesses in the area.

On April 30, a Health and Wellness Day is planned.

A series of "survival" workshops are being planned to acquaint people with traditional skills in such areas as candle making, soap making, dehydrating fruit and vegetables, building root cellars and clay ovens, as well as making jams, pickles and baby food.

Movement and Motion, a program sponsored by the Along the Shore Health Board, to promote physical activity and healthy eating for children aged 4 to 7, begins on February 23 here at the Community Centre.

The next meeting of the Community Association will be held on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 PM. You're welcome to join us.

It appears the school board has been abandoned and left on its own. The three unions who have contracts with the board, have always viewed the board as adversaries and not colleagues and are developing their own strategies.

The CCRSB website lists expiry dates as follows: Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) - March 7, 2010; Nova Scotia Government Employees Union (NSGEU) - June 30, 2010; NSTU's two year contract with the Province expired July 31, 2010. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) contract expires March 31, 2012.

At the end of the week, minister Jennex, was suggesting budget cuts could be helped by school boards not hiring replacements as teachers retired.

plan is left on the table. You then have a plan to deliver the desired outcome.

The CCRSB exercise to achieve a targeted 22% cut of \$34-million would involve staff reductions of 664 full time positions. Even though it would involve more people, all figures shown were based equating to full time positions (FTE's).

The breakdown was shown as:

Superintendent's Office /finance/ HR - 8
Operational Services - 87
Regional programs & Support - 34.7
School Based non-teaching - 186.3
School based non-classroom teachers - 65.
Classroom teachers - 283

The calculations to get to 283 full time teaching positions would involve 365 teachers, comprised of 16.7 Regional; 65 School/Non-classroom and 283 classroom teachers.

Chiganois School Notes



Chiganois Grade Primary students Eliza Rus, Mallory Llewellyn and Maria Putnam (l to r) were having a good time in Mrs. MacIntyre's gym class on Jan. 19th. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Happy New Year to everyone!

Thank you to all volunteers who helped to make December 2010 memorable for students and staff a huge success. A huge thank you goes out to Mike Burry for donating a fish tank and table to the school.

After school skating is held on scheduled Monday's from 3:30-4:30. All children must be accompanied by an adult and remember siblings are welcome. The dates will be January 10th, 24th, February 7th, 21st and March 7th. The cost per person is \$2.00. Come out, have fun and get exercise.

Congratulations to the students who had their pictures on the "I Spy" bulletin board; Abigail Adams, Kaelan Bakker, Charley Cameron, Josie Johnson, Ross Shepherd, Haley Garnham, Mike McMaster, Tyler Doucette, Holly Rafuse, Mason Murphy, Kenleigh Barton, Brandon Doucette, Ja-Mychal Cartwright, Joel Dean, Tristen Reid, Matthew Higgins, Sophie Shepherd and Sarah Gregory.

The PTG would like to thank the volunteers who helped with the Christmas store, Christmas Concert, Sing Song and Christmas dinner. All of these events were a huge success.

The school will be going to Wentworth for skiing every Thursday from 4-7. Children

are responsible for their own transportation to and from the hill. Only students who attended the information session in January are allowed to go.

Miss Krista Tait will be the supervising after school Basketball for Grades 2-5 on Wednesdays (every other Wed., the week opposite to skating). Upcoming dates include Feb. 2nd and 16th.

Participating Grade 5 students in the PALS Training have been organizing games for younger students at lunch time, two days a week.

Chiganois will be holding a School Science Fair in February. All students in Grades Four and Five will be required to complete a project and they may choose if they want to enter it in the School Fair.

The January "Lunch with the Principal" will be held on January 25th. In-service day for staff on Feb. 11th, no school for students on this day.

Primary Registration will be held on Friday, February 18th for any students in the Chiganois school district, who will be 5 years of age as of December 31st, 2011. Please share this information with any family you know that has a child that will be attending school. Families need to contact the school to set up an appointment time. Birth certificates are required for this day.

Winter Carnival will be held in March. More information will be provided next month.

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