

Author/Illustrator Richard Rudnicki autographs his book *Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged* during a recent visit to Great Village Elementary School. (Harrington Photo)



Great Village Elementary students Abby Matthews and Charleigh Jollimore enjoy looking at a book by Author/Illustrator Richard Rudnicki during his visit to the school. (Harrington Photo)



Great Village Elementary Grade 3 student Mattia Poelzer enjoys a coasting trip down Penny's Hill. (Harrington Photo)



The weather has been great for coasting and Great Village Elementary student Faith Taplin is not going to miss out on the fun. (Harrington Photo)

## Great Village Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

Author and illustrator Richard Rudnicki met with each of the classes this month to explain the many steps involved to have a book published. Mr. Rudnicki has written and illustrated several books that have a local setting such as Gracie the Public Gardens Duck, and Gus the Turtoise Takes a Walk. Gus lives in Halifax's Museum of Natural History. Mr. Rudnicki also illustrated the book, *Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged*. In addition to his publications, Mr. Rudnicki is also an artist and has been the "artist in residence" at Elizabeth Bishop House in Great Village.

Primary registration is scheduled for January 20th. 16 students are expected to begin the school year in 2016-17, six girls and ten boys. These soon-to-be students will return for an orientation to the school on May 26th. On this day, the children stay at the school for an hour and a half to participate in school events, without parents present.

With January's snow comes the return of coasting on Penny's Hill, next to the school. On Friday, Mrs. Smith takes one of the classes to the hill for coasting during the lunch break. Mr. Reid has also been taking advantage of the winter

conditions to take classes snowshoeing during Physical Education class. In March, plans are being made for students to skate at the West Colchester United Arena in Debert. Students are reminded that a helmet (and skates) is required to go on the ice. January's swimming trip, which was cancelled because of poor road conditions, will be rescheduled for February.

Members of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal shared their Winter Safety Program with students this month on January 20th. The presentation included an interactive video of Sammy Snowplow, the face of winter safety. Students also had the opportunity to see an actual snowplow in the driveway.

This month's Virtue is "honesty". Last month, Brooke Gamble, Zachary Best, and William Higgins were selected by their classmates for consistently demonstrating the virtue of "peacefulness".

Looking ahead, the next Home & School and School Advisory Council meetings are February 9th at 6:00PM at the school. Plans are also underway for the students to go dog sledding in February, weather permitting.

## Masstown Community News

By Christine Urquhart

Winter is here and we must put up with it! For those of you who enjoy the winter sports, good for you! For the rest of us, getting some exercise this time of year can be a bit tricky but unless it is very cold or very windy a good, brisk walk will give you some much needed exercise and some fresh air. Lots of things happening now that the new year has begun! Coffee Parties have started back up and there will be one this Wednesday, January 27th, 2pm, at the Masstown United Church. In

February there will be two Coffee Parties, weather permitting. One on Wednesday February 10th and one on February 24th. Both will start at 2pm and with luck, there will be Bake Tables at these. There is a great play room for the children and everyone is welcome.

Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday February 4th, 7pm, at the home of Gail Hines. All ladies welcome. You are reminded to bring in items for Transition House.

The DGM Men's Club will meet on Saturday February 6th at 8am at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome.

The Masstown Community Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday March 8th, 7pm in the restaurant part of the Masstown Market. Everyone Welcome.

There were some visitors over the holidays! Steve Barley with his wife Jodie and twin sons Jack and William from Vancouver visited his parents Jack and Mary Barley. Samatha Vaux from Edmonton visited her mother Alice Andrews plus her other siblings who live here. Leah Fisher was home from Arizona to visit her parents David and Heather Fisher, her grandmother Marina Fisher as well as her other cousins, aunts and uncles. Debbie Baillie from Amherst visited us. Bill and Shirley Leeming had a visit from his sister Barb Montieth of Woodstock NB.

Congratulations go out this month to Owen and Elsie Rudolph on the birth of twin great-grandsons!

Dress warm with the winter weather, don't forget to feed the birds, and enjoy what winter weather we get, it will make the spring and summer weather just a bit sweeter!

## Is Antibacterial Soap a do or a don't?

By Christine Urquhart

Despite its popularity, antibacterial soap is no more effective at killing germs than is regular soap. And using antibacterial soap may lead to the development of bacteria that are resistant to the products' antimicrobial agents, making it even harder to kill these germs in the future.

An alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a better alternative if soap and water aren't available. It is always important to wash your hands every time you use the bathroom, cut up meat or touch "dirty" items, such as your dog! Without hand washing germs spread like wild fire - and make us sick.

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## My Favourite Pet

Natalie Porter, reporter for the Onslow-Belmont 4-H Club, loves to pet and rub the tummy of Charlie, her 6-year-old Great Pyrenees Maremma cross. Charlie and Natalie will receive a \$20.00 gift Certificate from The Shoreline Journal and Clarence Farm Services.



Charlie

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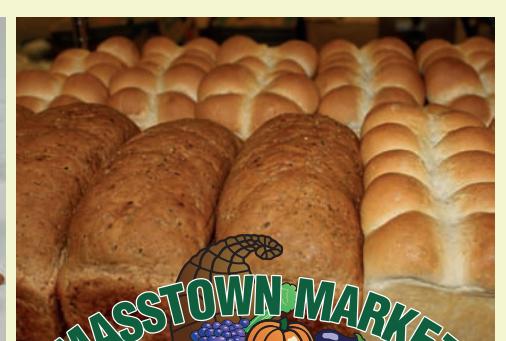
Keep an eye on our webcams.  
Great for a current weather check.



It's chowder time!  
We have the perfect seafood mix.



Cold outside? Time to warm up  
with homemade soups or stew.



**MASSTOWN MARKET**  
CLOSE TO HOME, FAR FROM ORDINARY.