

Great Village Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

March has been a busy month at Great Village Elementary, starting with classroom science presentations by the Discovery Centre. In Primary, the program was "We Like to Move it!" exploring moving/living things with our senses. In Grade 1/2, "Straws, Sticks and Bricks" looked at materials, objects and our senses and in Grade 3/4, "Facts of Light", explored concepts with light.

Swimming at the RECC was a splash! Students enjoyed a change from snow sports.

Student-Led Conferences

were held this month. Students and parents come to the school for students to share work completed and to demonstrate how school materials (e.g. math manipulatives) and technology are used to support learning.

Peace Week activities were held March 9-13th. A huge thank you to the parent volunteers for their support. Monday was "Take the Roof off Winter", with outside activities during PE class, including the use of snowshoes. All classes have turns coasting on the hill next to the school property during the lunch break.

Tuesday, the 10th was Crazy Hair/Hat Day. Wednesday, the whole school went bowling for the first time. All students did well, with Patricia McRae (Grade Primary) earning the top score of the morning. Her first ball was a strike!

A Sock Hop was held on Thursday, during the final music class of the day. Friday, the 13th was Pyjama Day. Students could sleep in and come to school in their PJs. A complementary hot breakfast (scrambled eggs, muffins, fresh fruit, and juice or chocolate milk) was served.

Puppeteers Darryl and

Heather Taylor spent the full day at the school on March 24th, to offer workshops. All students got to make a puppet (Grades P, 1, 2) or a marionette (Grades 3, 4). Students were delighted with their creations and couldn't wait to take them home, but first, there were performances to be created and shared at school.

Grade 3/4 class will be attending an Agricultural Fair at the Agridome in Bible Hill on April 1st.

Family Night Out will be held at the gym on May 1st, 6:30-8:00PM.

Home & School and SAC meetings will be held on May 20th.



Time for a puppet show! Great Village Elementary students Faith Taplin, Trinity Graham, Bradley Mattix, Rowan Durning and Kyle Dykstra were excited to try out the marionettes they made.



Samuel Pulley, Shelby Wenham and Abby Thompson were busy putting finishing touches on their marionettes.



GVES Grade Primary students, with one younger brother, enjoy a hot breakfast during Peace Week. Left to right- Mahayla MacGillivray, Robbie Griffiths, Laughlin and Brady Higgins-Langille, Logan Harrison.



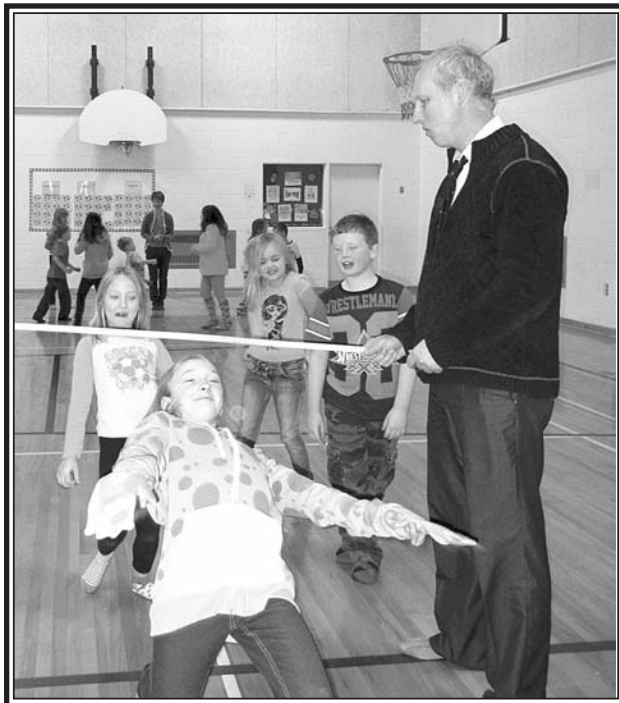
It has been a challenge keeping the walkway to the Great Village Elementary gymnasium open this winter. Left to right- Shelby Wenham, Brianna Griffiths, Erin Miller, Olivia Pugsley, Abby Thompson.



Great Village Elementary school enjoyed a day long workshop with puppeteers Darryl and Heather Taylor on March 24. Left to right- Jane Ross, Kadyrae Richards, Harley Ralph, Heather Taylor.



Puppeteer Darryl Taylor helps Payton Pugsley adjust the strings on the marionette she made.



Mr. Murphy holds the limbo stick for Grade 4 student Olivia Pugsley. Peace Week activities were held March 9 to 13 at Great Village Elementary School.

What will you do with your yard?

By Chris Urquhart

It may not feel like it but spring really is coming. Not in the next few weeks, mind you, but it will be coming and now is the time to think about what you want to do with your yard this year. If you wait until spring comes, you will not get what you really want.

Do you want to install a water feature? Check out what items are available, such as small fountains or pools. Do you want to have a nice, shaded corner with a bench or swing? If you don't have the trees or hedge planted yet, what kind of trees do you want? Remember, trees grow, and some grow taller than others! Leave room for them to do so, and keep them planted away from areas where they could cause potential problems down the road.

A nice, small bush looks great next to the house, but once it's grown into a six foot high, bushy monstrosity, it will look awful and cause problems to your siding and possibly your view if it is planted too close to a window.

If you are thinking of a rock garden, pick an area where you can easily weed, there is enough shade or sunlight for the plants you want in the rock garden, and plan on the size and shape of the rocks you want before you start. If you want planters, decide if you want to buy or build them. If you are planning on building them, get your plans today! It takes time to build planters and if you wait too long to get them made you will not be able to put in them the plants you would like to have.

If you are planning on growing your plants from seeds, get the seeds, soil and pots now and be prepared to plant the seeds no later than March 30th to have them large enough to transplant by spring weather. If you want a butterfly garden, check out the different plants which attract butterflies and watch for them at your local greenhouse. Draw up some plans, look at different ideas in gardening books and start dreaming about spring today!

Is Hands-Free Really Safe?

By Christine Urquhart

We often hear it's okay to talk on your phone while you drive as long as you are using a hands-free device - whether it's an earpiece or a dashboard infotainment system; but is it really safe? A recent National Safety Council poll shows that 80% of drivers believe hands-free cell phones are safer than using handheld. However, it's just not true.

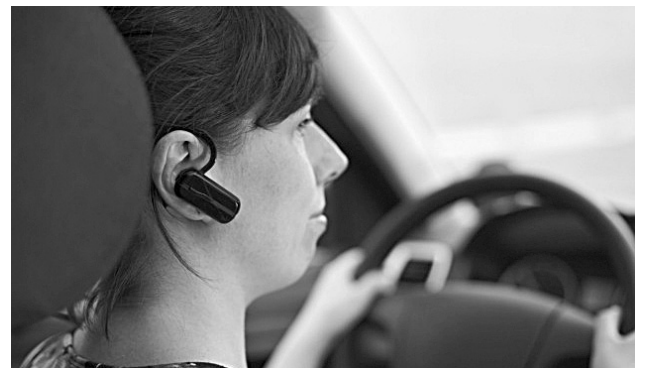
More than 30 studies show using hands-free systems provide drivers no safety benefit. Even with both hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road, your mind is distracted from the task of driving. Think about it, people had been driving stick shift for decades - the issue is not about keeping two hands on the wheel.

The NSC poll also found 53% of respondents believe hands-free devices must be safe to use if they are built

into vehicles. Add to that many state and provincial laws requiring people to use hands-free, and it's no wonder there's confusion.

But...the results are in: Hands-free features in dashboards actually increase mental distraction. Using voice-to-text is more distracting than typing texts while driving. Drivers who text with their hands or voice (using speech-to-text systems) keep their eyes on the road less often and have reaction times twice as slow.

Therefore, pull over to make or answer phone calls. Stop to text. If you don't have the time to stop, don't use the phone! Let's be safe on our roads and keep the accidents down to a bare minimum. It is also a good idea to be a good example to our children and grandchildren so that they don't think it's OK to "phone and drive".



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ANNUAL MEETING
The Annual Meeting
of the
Lower Onslow Community Centre
will be held at the Centre,
12391 Hwy 2, Lower Onslow,
on April 20, 2015,
at 7:00 p.m.

All residents of the area served by the
Onslow-Belmont Fire Brigade
are invited to attend this meeting.

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