

## Great Village Elementary Christmas Concert was held on stage in the gymnasium on December 17.

(Harrington Photos)



Grade 4 students Damian Howell & Neita Lindsay were the MC's for the evening.



Students from Grade Primary/One- Front: Robie Mackie, Danica Congdon, Zachary Best; Back: Crystal Higgins, Hendrikus van den Hoek Field, Adam Millen, Sophie Cooke.



Left to right: Zachary Best, Danica Congdon, Robie Mackie, Mackenzie Slack, Elijah MacKinnon from Grade P/1 class.



Grade 2/3 class



Front: Winston Leeman, Angus Eisses; Back: Austin Wenham, Zachary Dykstra, Marshall George from Grade 4 class.



Great Village Elementary Choir members (left to right) - Shelby Wenham, Abby Thompson, Maddy McLean, Alexis Morse, Ty McLean and Music teacher Mrs. Michaud.



Grade 4 students Cheyanne MacLellan & Kamryn Miller.

## Wentworth & Westchester Fire Fighters Serve Christmas Dinner



Tyson Darragh, a grade six student at the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School, enjoys a Christmas lunch at his school served by the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department. Tyson is the son of Jeff and Rhonda Darragh. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

The spirit of Christmas prevailed in Wentworth during a program for the students at the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School (WCES) and the program consisted of two sessions.

The first session was located at the Wentworth United Church sanctuary with the ministers from two Wentworth churches cooperating together to tell the WCES students about the Nativity with prayers, scripture, readings, a question period, and two hymns titled "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night." Betty Curry accompanied the singing of the hymns on the organ. Each student was given a hymn book and it was touching to see them opening the pages to obtain the correct hymn number and to sing along. The students had walked down from the school to the nearby church. Attending were ministers Brian DeLong of the United Church and Pastor Darryl Dykens of the Baptist Church and, as well as the students, there were several parents and grandparents of the students, members of the Wentworth and Westchester Volunteer Fire Departments, teaching staff and secretary, and several church members.

Rev. Brian DeLong in the question segment asked the students to announce a word beginning with "s" based on what they had heard about the Nativity and many hands went up, usually with relevant words such as "shepherd, stable, Saviour, star and sky."

The students at WCES range from Grade Primary to Grade Six and are taught by Principal Elizabeth Aikens, Valerie Rushton, and Carmen Wyllie in multiage classrooms. The school secretary is

Tami Canning. Two busses bring the students to school and the two bus drivers are Ann Harrison (attending this program) and Eddie Patriquin (not able to attend).

At the end of the program in the church sanctuary, Principal Elizabeth Aikens invited everyone present to come to the WCRS auditorium for a dinner as a celebration of Christmas. The Principal directed the students to only partially fill each table and thus making seats free for the adults to sit with the students so that intergenerational chats could take place.

Members of the Wentworth and Westchester Fire Departments lined up at the kitchen opening for the plates filled with Christmas dinner and first served each student with food and a drink. Later, a larger portion of the Christmas dinner was served to the adults by the Firefighters.

The Christmas dinner was organized by school secretary Tami Canning who contacted two parents and a grandmother to help with the scheduling and work: Andrea Rushton, Melissa Topple, and Sheila Palmer. The cost of the meal was covered by donations from Oxford Frozen Foods, Amherst Superstore, Amherst Sobeys, and North Nova Forest Owners Co-Operative. Tami Canning, Melissa Topple, and Sheila Palmer spent many hours cooking the food: chicken, dressing, potatoes, carrots, turnip, gravy, cranberry sauce, and pickles. Vanilla ice-cream was served for dessert.

The firefighters who served the meal were all in uniform and the names of the Wentworth firefighters were: Kevin Sprague, Fire Chief; Conor Scallion, Training Officer; Orland Carter; and Bill Baker, Municipal Councilor for District 6; and representing the Westchester Fire Department was Fire Chief Justin Rushton.

A high point of this Christmas program came when Principal Elizabeth Aikens presented a book to Fire Chief Kevin Sprague. The book was titled Why We Like the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department by the students of the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School. The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board deserves praise for the excellent technology used to print the colourful drawings of the students. The book is beautifully crafted and what makes it even more beautiful are the sentences written by the students at the bottom of each drawing. Certainly, the WVFD deserves great praise from all ages in the community for all the activities the firefighters do for the Wentworth School, and the students join in this praise with a sample of several of these sentences:

*"They celebrate Fire Safety Week with us; They talk about snow plow safety; They help Santa pass out treats; Thanks for the Fire Safety Awards; They give Grade 6 graduates a gift; They put water on our skating rink; They teach us about snow safety; They give us a safe place [at the Fire Hall] to trick or treat; They decorate a big Christmas tree for us; They serve Christmas dinner; They serve Thanksgiving dinner; They come to our concerts; They fill our outdoor rink with a fire hose".*

## MacCaull Villa Notes

By Hazel Hill

Members of the Gloscap Trail 4-H club delivered fruit and a wreath they made themselves to everyone here at the Villa, before Christmas.

Faith Baptist Church members came Saturday, December 14th singing Christmas Carols and giving each one of us a box of fruit and home cooking, which was delicious. We wish to express our sincerest thanks to the 4-H Club and Faith Baptist Church members.

Monday, December 18th, the CALA learning school had a dinner in the lounge for the students that attend. They all enjoyed it very much.

On December 20th the folks here held a social time in the lounge where they exchanged gifts and thanks to Gary Roger for the nice job he did on decorating the Christmas tree.

Phyllis Rushton had a visit from her son, Micheal and wife, Jennie and daughter, Fiona a few days before Christmas. Shirley Ryan had

Christmas dinner with her daughter, Tammy and husband, Danny Garnham, Little Dyke and on boxing day, she was at her Grandson, Ryan's and family for dinner. Bernice Kaulback was the at the Double "C" with all the family. Every year Debbie and Darrell invite all the family and have a big Christmas dinner for all.

Merton Eagles spent a few days with his mother in Economy at Christmas. Helen Patriquin spent Christmas Day with her family at her old home in Folly Mountain. Robert and Betty had Christmas dinner with me and one New Years my son, Carleton from Lower Sackville spent the day with me.

Our many thanks to al who helped make our Christmas so special this year and our thanks and appreciation to all the VON and home support workers, who do so much for us all year long.

We wish Happy Birthday to Bernice Kaulback and Stella Power who are celebrating birthdays this month.

## Great Village Elementary School Notes

By Connie Smith

January has been a relatively quiet month. We welcomed the New Year with a delicious turkey dinner prepared and served by parent volunteers through Classroom Cafe.

Each month students are combined in multiage groups of grade P-4 students to participate in Peace Groups. In Peace Groups, students practice strategies and skills for being good citizens in all environments. Each month a new virtue is introduced and this month's virtue is "responsibility".

The call has been made for next year's Grade Primary students with registration being held on Thursday, February 13. Students in the P/1 classroom will not attend school on this day.

The next Home & School meeting is February 10 at 6:00 followed by the SAC meeting at 7:00. On Valentine's Day, students will have the opportunity to go skating at the West Colchester United Arena in Debert, from 12:30-1:30. Parents are welcome to join us at the rink and their assistance tying skates would be appreciated.

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