

Great Village Elementary School Notes

By Linda Harrington

November's virtue was cooperation. Students recognized by their peers for consistently showing this virtue were Mahayla MacGillivray,

Sophie Cooke, and Mattia Poelzer. These students were appreciated for their helpfulness and for setting a good example for others to follow. The virtue that is being

focused on for December is "peacefulness".

Students enjoyed a morning at the Cougar Dome recently where they played soccer, tennis and golf.

Great Village Elementary School Christmas Concert- was postponed from original date because of a snow storm and held on Dec. 18th in the school gymnasium. Musical leadership provided by Mrs. Hoegg-Briand. (Harrington Photos)



Mrs. Barbour's Grade P/1 Class welcomes everyone to the concert and performed "Christmas Decorations" and "We Are Decorations".



Mr. Murphy and Ms. Parker's Grade 1/2 Class performed "Gingerbread Man" and "Making Christmas Cookies".



Mrs. Ross' Grade 3/4 Class preformed Christmas Present and Love my Slippers.

Thanks to funds donated to the school through the community Canada Day event, topped up by the Home & School, each classroom now has a spin bike in the classroom. All students have access to a quiet way to burn off energy in the classroom.

Welcome to Mrs. Valerie Hoegg-Briand, the new music teacher at GVES. One of Mrs. Hoegg-Briand's first responsibilities was to help students prepare for the concert, "Christmas at Grandma's", and everyone rose to that challenge. Donations to the Colchester Community Feed Bank were collected at the door on the night of the concert. (Held Dec. 17th, due to storm cancellation on the 15th)

During the week of December 7-11th, schools were invited to participate in "The Hour of Code". One purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the process of computer programming. There are tutorials for students from Grades Primary through Grade 12. All students at GVES participated in this event.

Gingerbread houses were built by all students on Dec. 10th. Thank you to the many volunteers... from the bakers and icing makers, to the "elves" who helped out on the day of construction, and especially to Mandi McRae who organized this event for all students.

Students enjoyed a "Mad Science" presentation on December 18th with foggy dry ice storms, bubbling volcanoes and even a special "burp" potion as students learned about chemical reactions, air pressure and the states of matter.

Thanks to dedicated Classroom Cafe volunteers, GVES staff and students came together to share a Christmas Dinner on the last day of school. Through the community support of the local Masons, this meal was provided free of charge for all students and staff.

Enjoy a safe and joyous holiday! Best wishes for continued success in the New Year!

Registration for 2016-17 Primary students will take place on January 20th. Please contact the school at 902-668-6500 or canningt@ccrsb.ca to arrange an appointment if you have a child who is beginning school in September of 2016 (born in 2011).

Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade Christmas Party, Annual General Meeting and Christmas Banquet

By Linda Harrington

The Annual OBFB Christmas Party and Awards Banquet was held on Dec. 5th at the Fire Hall. A delicious meal was prepared by Trinity United Church and enjoyed by all. Walter McElhinney acted as emcee for the evening. Greetings were received from County Councillors Doug MacInnes, Tom Taggart and Ron Cavanaugh plus Mayor Bob Taylor and MLA Karen Casey. Chief Greg Muise thanked the members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, as well as the community for their generous and continued support for 2015.

Chief Muise reported on the year's activities and events. The municipal tax rate remained the same at 9 cents/\$100 assessment. New TRM 2 radios were installed in the trucks and identifier numbers for officers and trucks were changed to a three number system. The "I Am Responding" communications program was also implemented.

The largest purchase in 2015 was a fully equipped rescue utility vehicle, complete with trailer and storage box for supplies. Dash cams were installed in some of the trucks. New station wear was purchased for members.

Insurance coverage was upgraded to cover members 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. A committee is working on General Operating Guidelines for members.

The Harvest sale was very successful this year. During Fire Prevention week, members visited schools and an Open House was held at the hall.

Three new members joined the Brigade in 2015, one member resigned and one member retired.

OBFB responded to 194 calls in 2015: 3 grass fires, 7 flue fires, 93 medical calls, 16 misc. calls, 17 Mutual Aid calls, 48 motor vehicle accidents, 3 structure fires and 7 vehicle fires. Total damages for the year came to \$241,900. Since OBFB was established in 1961, there have been a total of 4451 calls answered and



\$5,791,559 in damages.

Total in-house training was 548 man hours combined hours plus 312 hours outside training. Sam Currie and Scott Faber attended Level 1 courses. Three members attended vehicle extraction courses at the Fire School, plus the Brigade held a vehicle extraction course one Saturday, thanks to Maritime Auto Salvage.

OBFB members participated in several community events including two dances, assistance at Kids Fun Day at Captain Cob's Corn Maze, Masstown Canada Day, parking at Saltscapes Expo, fire protection at Masstown Mud Bog, Memorial for Truro Police Constable Catherine Campbell, plus several parades. The OBFB float was awarded 1st Place in the Santa Claus Parade.

Sporting and Social events for 2015 included: inter-brigade sports, cribbage tournaments, dart tournament, MFFA Golf Tournament in PEI, CFFA Tournament in Brookfield, CFFA Curling, MFFA Curling (hosted by OBFB), slow pitch league, Family Skate, and Steak and Lobster Dinner.

Special Awards were presented at the banquet as follows: Stan Groves Junior Fire Fighter of the Year Award- Sam Currie; Clem MacKinnon Sportsmanship Award- Leo Morrow; John Petrash Most Improved- Carl Gallant; Clifford MacDougall Fellowship Award- Leo Morrow and Ron Urquhart; Carl King Officer of the Year Award- Darrell Currie; Keith Hamilton Memorial Fire Fighter of the Year Award- Vanessa Piercy.

Long Term Service Awards were presented to Dan Dargavel (5 Years), Derek Richard (10 Years), Sean Foley (25 Years), Claire Peers (30 Years), Chester Sabean (45 Years) and Charlie MacKenzie (45 Years).

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