

## Great Village Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

There haven't been many snowflakes in the air so far in December, but there has been a lot of excitement in the air at Great Village Elementary School! This month, each classroom received 5 Chrome Books to add to their inventory, and the students weren't long putting them into use.

On December 6th, every student in the school participated in The Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science. Students begin with the basics of computer programming and move through levels at their own pace to complete a variety of programming activities.

By sharing tablets between classrooms, every student in a class is able to have his/her own tablet. It is impressive to observe students at all grade levels problem solve as they complete the activities. To give coding a try visit the code.org website.

Once again, students had the opportunity to build a gingerbread house from scratch. This year, students made their gingerbread houses in Peace Groups (each Group has students from each of the classrooms).

Having older and more experienced students available to help the younger students made constructing and decorating gingerbread houses go very smoothly. It takes many volunteers to make this event the success it is each year, both behind the scenes (e.g. baking gingerbread pieces, making icing, and purchasing candy decorations) and on construction day. A special thank you is extended to Mandi MacRae for her leadership for this activity. Students take the gingerbread houses home following the Christmas concert.

Students performed their concert, "Gifts from the Heart"

to a full house on December 11th. Thanks to all staff for their help in "polishing" the performance, with a special thank-you to music teacher Mr. Black. This year, GVES is very fortunate to have a new electric keyboard that was played both by Mr. Black and students during the concert. Thank you to the Home & School for their support in purchasing this keyboard for the music classroom. On the night of the concert, in addition to gifts from the heart, close to 100kg of food was collected for the Colchester Food Bank.

Parent volunteers were back at the school on December 15th to prepare a turkey dinner for students and staff to enjoy, and did they ever! This meal was provided free of charge thanks to a donation from the Masons (63 Corinthian Lodge).

Thank you again to the many volunteers who contribute to the school.

Students are looking forward to Christmas Break, but before finishing out the year, there will be a school trip to the RECC to go swimming, and on the last day of school, a scientist will be coming to share the "magic" of science.

Looking ahead, primary registration is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th. A notice will be sent home to gather names and contact information for students eligible to begin school in September 2018 (5 years old on or before December 31st, 2018) and parents will be contacted with an appointment time to bring their child to school on February 7th.

A huge thank you to families and community members for supporting activities at Great Village Elementary all year long especially during the month of December. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday!



GVES Grade One student Logan Gamble is learning the basics of computer programming during The Hour of Code introduction to computer science. (Harrington Photo)



Thanks to the addition of five new Chrome Books, all students at Great Village Elementary participated in The Hour of Code on Dec. 6th. Grade 3 student Alexis Merzbach is enjoying trying a variety of computer programming activities. (Harrington Photo)



GVES student Clarke Senior is having a fun time putting the finishing touches on his gingerbread house. (Harrington Photo)



Ella Lomond and Jamie Lee Alexander might have a future in home construction! All Great Village Elementary students had a fun time building gingerbread houses from scratch. (Harrington Photo)

The Shoreline Journal welcomes your story contributions

## Dr. Ewing Receives 2017 YMCA Peace Award

Continued from page 1

a story written by Dr. Ewing and brought to life by students from WCCS using giant Peace Doves puppets created from the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Program.

In 2015, Dr Ewing started the Blue Marble Initiative which empowers the idealism of youth. This initiative encourages innovative, compassionate pathways to sustainability, equality, justice, peace and survival for all creatures who share this planet.

The Peace Medal was developed in 1987 by the International Committee at the YMCA of Fredericton. That year, this committee of volunteers and staff was tasked with developing Peace Week support materials for YMCAs across the country.

Inspired by efforts of Jim and Kay Bedell in raising awareness of the 1982 United Nations Disarmament Conference by walking from New Brunswick to New York City to attend it, the Committee decided to institute an award, a peace medal, to be given by YMCAs across the country each year to people like Jim and Kay.

The Peace Medal is now used across Canada during Peace Week to recognize the achievements of individuals or groups who - without any special resources - demonstrate in their lives and activities the values expressed by PEACE (participation, empathy, advocacy, community, empowerment) and serve as models of what all of us are capable of achieving if we choose.



Jeff MacNeil, a representative from the Cumberland YMCA presents Dr Karen Ewing with the 2017 YMCA Peace Award. The presentation was made at the Veterans Memorial Park board meeting on November 19th. Accompanying the Medallion was a certificate designating Dr. Ewing as a Peacemaker. (Submitted)

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