

Great Village Elementary School Notes



A sure sign of spring! Grade 3 students Bria Tanner, Brooke Gamble, Mahayla MacGillivray and Patricia MacRae were picking bouquets of dandelions on the GVES playground recently. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

At long last, the eagerly anticipated day arrived, the day when the back field was finally dry enough for students to add this area to their playground. The wet winter/spring weather kept students off this playing area much longer than usual. Several activities to help to keep GVES students active took place this month.

The Grade 2/3 class participated in the Swim to Survive Program. The Swim to Survive program offers 3

In-water swimming lessons with certified swimming instructors, teaching the skills of roll into deep

water, tread water for 1 minute and swim 50 metres. The program also offers 3 in-classroom water safety lessons completed with the classroom teacher

This program is funded by the Lifesaving Society in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness and is provided to students free of charge. GVES Grade 3/4 class participated in the Swim to Survive Program at the RECC with students from West Colchester Consolidated School.

This month all students participated in a school trip to the Cougar Dome in Truro. While at the Cougar Dome, students rotated through stations where they had the opportunity to play soccer, walk/run on the track, and to have instruction with golf and tennis professionals.

Mrs. Rushton has organized a Recess Walk/Run Club where each day at recess students are invited to walk or run laps on the back field. Students collect a block for every lap completed and can choose to participate on as many days and for as long as they wish. At the end of the month, the total distance travelled will be revealed.

This month, Mrs. Rushton also started an after-school sports program for students in Grades Primary through Grade Four. The program takes place each Wednesday, continuing until June 20th. Thank to Mrs. Rushton for organizing these activities for our students.

At the end of May, students are looking forward to a performance by entertainers Donna & Andy. This duo was scheduled to come to the school earlier in the year when poor travelling conditions kept them away. Family and community members are invited to attend this musical entertainment at the gym on Tuesday, May 29th from 12:45-1:45.

Next year's Grade Primary students will get their

first taste of going to school on May 31st. On this day, these children will spend part of the morning in the Grade P/1 classroom, without their parents being at the school.

HELP NEEDED! The Home & School is making plans to upgrade our school playground. Some of the current playground equipment is nearing the end of its lifespan so will require replacement, and the Home & School would also like to have some more natural elements added to the play space. Students were asked to draw what they would like to have on the playground and these ideas will be taken into consideration in the playground design. The playground enhancement is an expensive undertaking. There will be some fundraising through the school, but the majority of the expense will need to be covered through grants and donations in kind. We have an offer from Cobequid Consulting, a local business, to complete a design for our group, free of charge. Having Cobequid Consulting as a recreation consultant may help to get support from others (e.g. county, community, councillors). A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th, 6:00PM at the school for all parents and community members who want to learn more about the project. Your support is needed for this project to become a reality.

A number of activities are planned for the last month of school, including a school trip to That Dutchman's Cheese Farm followed by a picnic lunch at the Five Islands Lighthouse Park. On June 6th, students will celebrate the success of the Home Reading/Writing Program with Book Buddies followed by a special recess snack. Family and community members who have volunteered at the school are invited to a Volunteer Tea in the school gym on June 13th. Refreshments will be served at 1:00PM followed by "light" entertainment.

On June 14th, students will have an opportunity to explore Science topics when representatives from Dalhousie University visit each classroom, and finally, Field Day is scheduled for June 22nd with a rain date of June 25th. The last full day of school is June 27th, with report cards handed out on the morning of June 29th. Students are in school for one hour on June 29th.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. Students will be welcomed back to school on September 5th.

More About One-Room Wentworth Schools

By Hope Bridgewater

What happened to the Wentworth One-Room Wentworth Schools after the amalgamation of six of them in 1959 when students in grades primary to six went by bus to the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School at Wentworth Centre and grades seven to eleven went by bus to the Pugwash District High School?

One-room schools had one teacher for grades one to eleven, and Pugwash school added grade twelve. When students first went to the one-room schools in the Wentworth area, the schools did not start at primary but at grade one. Students walked to school on a gravel road morning, noon, and afternoon; those students who had further to walk often carried a noon-hour lunch with them. Lots of exercise happened then and lots of memorization of school texts and lessons. There had to be six one-room schools in the Wentworth area because students did not have to walk more than two miles to a school.

In a previous column, I concentrated on one school located at Appleton #1 on the Lake Road in the Wentworth area as an example of what happened there. The School was bought by a resident, made into a cottage, and out of respect for the past kept the name of the school on the front of the cottage.

A summary follows of what happened to the other five schools which at that time in 1959 were bought by residents for their use:

#2. The West Wentworth School was bought by a resident for his home, later sold to another resident who tore it down, moved the parts to the Lake Road and built a house which he sold to another resident there. There is no sign there now of it being once a school.

#3. The Lower Wentworth School was sold as a ski cottage and moved to a lot on the New Annan road and does not show any sign of it being a school of the past, except for the building itself.

#4. The East Wentworth School had a nice fate after being sold for a cottage as it remains on its original location on the New Annan road and keeps the sign of the original school as a sign of respect for its past.

#5. The Wentworth Centre School was bought by a resident for farm use, became in disrepair, finally was destroyed, and there is no sign showing that it had existed. However, its site was chosen for the new. Went-



East Wentworth School sold for a cottage at its original site and with a sign of the original school on its front out of respect for its past. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

worth Consolidated Elementary School in 1959.

#6. Surprise and a great ending for #6! The Wentworth Valley One-Room School, now called The Old Valley Schoolhouse, is still located on its original site. It is the only one-room school owned by the community and is maintained by the Wentworth Community Hall Association. It was built for a sum of \$540 by Alexander Munro in 1903 and stands in good condition after 115 years (1903- 2018). This schoolhouse has Heritage Status with the County of Cumberland and is listed on the website of "The Nova Scotia Places Initiative."

The Wentworth Commu-

nity Hall Association was formed in 1959 due to the amalgamation of the six one-room schools. The Directors of this Community Hall Association were and are dedicated in their quest to have the Wentworth one-room schools respected for their past history and to have this valley school respected as a Heritage site.

Carol Hyslop as a Director says "What we are trying to do is have a building of historical significance as a monument to the people who call our beautiful valley home." This schoolhouse is used for meetings, anniversaries, wedding receptions, and ski related activities.



Lower Wentworth School moved to the New Annan Road as a cottage. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



The Old Valley Schoolhouse at its original site, in good condition after 115 years. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

Craving lobster?

We have the cure!



LOBSTER DINNER



LOBSTER ROLLS



LIVE OR COOKED LOBSTER



LOBSTER SEAFOOD PIE