

Debert Elementary Notes



Debert Elementary held Winter Carnival activities during the week of Feb. 10th to 14th. Taking part in Wacky Hair Day were Grade One students Jessie Totten, Trent Fisher, Ava Pike and Gavin Cramm. (Harrington Photo)



Reading Buddies is a lot more fun on Wacky Hair Day. Debert Elementary students Sam Lake, Adam Newman, Wyatt Higgins and Mason Turner were showing their school spirit during Winter Carnival. (Harrington Photo)

By Erma Cox

Despite the snow days and cold temperatures much has been accomplished by students at Debert Elementary over the past month. We are very pleased with the global and local actions of our grade six students. They recently sold "We are Love" buttons and Rafiki chains to help less fortunate families in Kenya. This effort realized over 900 dollars for the cause.

These same students hosted a mini Valentine dance for the students of the school and have made a few visits to the Shannex where they have participated in numerous activities with the seniors. These experiences have given the students an opportunity to demonstrate the kind and caring attributes of our youth.

Winter Carnival was cut a bit short with the snowstorm on Friday the 14th, resulting in a cancellation of our skating day. We have rescheduled this event for the morning of February 27th. Visitors to the school during Valentines week may have thought they entered a foreign land as each day this week saw students and staff alike wearing attire from different themes.

On Monday as we celebrated favorite character day we had princesses, witches, Professor McGonagall, cowgirls and a variety of other costumes wondering about. The students seemed to most enjoy pajama day on Thursday.

Our Primary registration for the 2014-15 school year was held on February 21st. We have 20 students pre-registered. Should you have a child who turns five before December 31st of this year and you missed the registration date, please call the school and we will collect the necessary information and have your child signed up for the partial day to attend.

Report cards will be coming out on Monday March 3rd, with parent teacher meetings occurring on the evening of March 6th and the morning of March 7th. Parents are reminded to phone the school for an appointment.

Our parent teacher group recently surprised staff with a number of treats as part of staff appreciation week. This group also provides funding for many activities for the students of the school including the class trips that occur in June.

Blake Jennings – a 4TH Generation Egg Producer

By Linda Harrington

Blake Jennings is only 19 years of age but he knows exactly what he plans to do with the rest of his life. He looks forward to beginning work at 6AM, 7days a week, 365 days a year because "work" is what he loves. You might say it is in his genes, the fifth generation of his family to make farming their way of live and the fourth generation to be an egg producer at Bayview Poultry Farms Ltd.

Blake has recently returned from Calgary, Alberta where he took part in Growing Connections

Conference, hosted by Canadian Young Farmers' Forum (CYFF). Egg Farmers of Canada (EFC) sponsored the event, which brought together 160 young farmer leaders from across Canada.

Nova Scotia Egg Producers chose Blake to represent the province at the Conference, with his trip sponsored by Egg Farmers of Canada. He says he pleased for the opportunity to network with other young farmers. "There were different presentations throughout each day, and all were very informative, with a lot of new information. Getting to meet new people and learning what they are doing on their farms was very interesting," says Blake. "The trip was very worthwhile and

I would love to go back again another year."

Blake has been involved on the family farm his whole life. "I remember when I was little going with my great uncle Lloyd on the tractor or dump truck when he was hauling silage. And of course I was gathering eggs as soon as I was old enough," says Blake with a smile.

When asked why he wants to be a farmer, Blake says it is nice to be able to carry on the tradition. He enjoyed growing up on a farm and doesn't want to change, preferring to live in a rural community than an urban center. But he has another important reason for his career choice, "I love to work," he says, "And this is certainly a job with a lot of work!"

A typical day for Blake and his dad begins at 6AM when they start gathering eggs, doing barn checks and then unloading and stacking the eggs. The rest of the day varies but often involves cleaning and disinfecting the barns and equipment. "We follow the "Start Clean, Stay Clean" guidelines to ensure a clean environment and clean, well-kept eggs going to market," says Blake. "We are usually busy right up to supper time."

Blake has operated "Blake's Pumpkin Jungle" each autumn for a number of years and

sells pumpkins and squash to a number of retail stores including Masstown Market, Sobeys and Farmer Clem's.

Hard work for sure, but the smile on Blake's face says it all. Bayview Poultry Farms Ltd. is going to be in good hands with this young farmer.

More 'Eggs' on page 10



19 year old Blake Jennings, of Bayview Poultry Farm Ltd., recently attended the Growing Connections Conference, hosted by Canadian Young Farmers' Forum, in Calgary, Alberta.

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