

Blue Marble Initiative held at Debert Elementary, for Earth Day

(Harrington Photos)



Blue Marble Initiative was hosted at Debert Elementary on to celebrate Earth Day. Georja Alexander and Josephine Johnson look at some of the ways they can help clean up the environment.



Lienna Storry-Trefry signs her "I Declare" pledge, saying she will not litter, as Autumn Rushton looks on.



Andrea Muise and Morgan Barnes learn about how all species are interconnected on the earth.



Abi MacKenzie and Hannah Boertjes learn the proper places for various items to promote recycling.



Volunteer Stanley Corbett helps Maia Sloan and Brooklyn Robichaud identify wilderness areas in the province.

By Linda Harrington

Earth Day 2016, will be have long term memories for Debert Elementary students as the school hosted the second Blue Marble Initiative.

The idea for the Blue Marble Initiative came from Dr. Karen Ewing, after she attended a Peace Conference and was challenged to make a change. She says she has always been interested in peace and the environment and came up with the idea to involve students. "It is based on the Earth as seen from space, but, as we are becoming increasingly aware, it is facing many environmental challenges. Global warming, species at risk, rising sea levels are approaching crisis levels, and actions must be taken to slow and even reverse these trends. The Blue Marble Initiative aims at raising hope in the midst of these issues."

In 2015, Dr. Ewing presented the concept to the Central Colchester Regional School Board (CCRSB) and with the

help of teachers Sybil Flemming and Sherry Patriquin, they were able to develop curriculum relating to peace and the environment.

The program was launched in 2015 at West Colchester Consolidated School and Dr. Ewing and her dedicated volunteers were excited to be at Debert Elementary for Earth Day this year.

Students from Grades P-6 had the opportunity to visit 19 interactive displays, aimed at increasing their awareness of their place in the natural global community.

Dr. Ewing was pleased to have Tabitha Coleman, the School Engagement Officer for Green Schools Nova Scotia, on location this year. The Green Schools program, funded by Efficiency Nova Scotia, has been presented for free to 150 schools throughout Nova Scotia. Debert Elementary has a Green Team in place, with students and

staff working towards an action plan.

The Blue Marble Initiative ended with an assembly and a

visit from one of the endangered species, a large white polar bear.



Dr. Karen Ewing founder of the Blue Marble Initiative talks with Tabitha Coleman, School Engagement Officer for Green Schools Nova Scotia.



Nicole Geldart checks out some of the animals on the endangered species list for Nova Scotia.



Emily Lerettee and Ivy Roberts solve the answer to the question, "who can make a difference?"



Volunteer Vernon McCully shows Emily Hepburn and Adam Newman how a bee smoker operates.

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