



School District 2 Community Schools

Big Brothers Big Sisters—Mentors that make a difference.

This spring Shediac Cape School was involved in a change drive to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Moncton (BBBS Moncton). Working together, the students brought in \$1123.05; the kindergarten class and a grade 5 class brought in the most money –over \$150 each –and received a lunch time pizza party from Pizza Delight.



Staff and students at Shediac Cape School present Denale Curtis, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters, with a cheque for \$1,123.05 to support the In School Mentoring program.

“The students and staff at SCS worked many hours collecting, transporting, rolling and counting the change that was raised for the drive,” says SCS teacher and guidance counsellor Matt Dixon. “It was a lot of work, but the school was happy to do it. The students love feeling that they are a part of something that helps other people.”

Executive director of BBBS Moncton, Denale Curtis, was overwhelmed with emotion when she arrived at SCS to collect the cheque presented by the students in April. She thanked each of the winning classes as she handed out their pizza.

“You don’t know how many people this will help,” she told the kindergarten class

through tears. “It’s just so amazing that you would all come together to do this. This is what this program is all about.”

The school chose to raise funds for BBBS Moncton because the non-profit group hosts their In-School Mentoring program there. The program matches a “big” (adult) with a “little” (student) at the school and the two meet once a week for an hour. “Littles” are students identified by their teachers who would benefit from a mentoring relationship at the school. The program helps build a bond between the “bigs” and “littles” through games, conversation, shared interest and simple time spent

together.

“Eventually we hope that the two become more than matches and that they develop a friendship that allows the student to discuss things with their mentor that they may not be able to talk about with the other adults in their life,” says Denale. “The program creates a safe place for the student where they can be themselves and receive positive feedback and guidance.”

There are currently 15 active matches between volunteers and students in District 2 schools.

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Beaverbrook School

Takin' it easy with our friends at MBGC

This year Miss Ames' grade 3 students participated in an exciting program through the Moncton Boys and Girls Club. The program **Take It EASY** was delivered in class once a week for more than 20 weeks by Derrick Beardsworth, Moncton Boys and Girls Club Director of Program Services and Ashton Arseneault, Program Coordinator, and it was a huge success says Ames.

As pre-teens and teens grow, they face many challenges in their personal and social development. The period of early adolescence (ages 8-16) is one in which youth face puberty, growing independence from home and parents, peer influence and social and school pressures on a day to day basis.

Take It EASY, a national program of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is designed to engage youth in fun and engaging small group activities. Facilitated by a trained Club staff person, each session focuses on a particular issue such as self-esteem, body image, violence and gender issues. Each activity enables participants to ask questions, share their opinions and reflect upon the issues that are raised.

The main objective of the program is to foster self-esteem and confidence. More specifically, **Take It EASY** aims to help youth:

- Develop social and emotional skills
- Understand the role of media and social media in their lives
- Understand how to manoeuvre themselves through conflict
- Improve their abilities to make decisions
- Develop positive relationships with their peers and adults.

Miss Ames said that Derrick and Ashton made a real connection with the students.

"The students were willing to share their thoughts; they were eager to complete any assignments and always looked forward to the next session" said Ames. Ames noticed that students were using the language and the skills they learned in the sessions. And the students themselves said it was the best part of their day!

Miss Ames noted that because the class was divided by gender for the sessions, the discussions were more focused on the specific needs and issues facing each gender, she found that the students got "far more out of their sessions, they were



more open and free to share".

"The growth and evolution of our partnership with the Moncton Boys and Girls Club has been exceptional, we are very pleased with the number of programs offered in our school through the Boys and Girls Club. Our school and families have benefited greatly" says Principal Norval McConnell.

Today, the Boys and Girls Club of Moncton is a leading provider of quality programs to children and youth in the Greater Moncton area that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 1,000 young people and their families each year in the Greater Moncton Area.

Medavie Blue Cross supports program that improves lifestyle & academics

"Students experienced the broad impact healthy living can have on their lives and saw how easy it was to make simple life changes that have huge pay-offs today and potentially down the road" said Scott Jardine, Move 2 Improve - Beaverbrook Alternative Education Teacher.

Move 2 Improve is a science-based program designed to enhance mental focus, retention & cognition.

The program has two developmental goals: improve students' overall health and readiness for learning through fitness, and to impact the academic results of student's literacy & numeracy skills, including social/life skills development.

Students (middle or high school) partici-

pated in cardiovascular fitness training 3 to 5 times a week for 20 minutes throughout the school year and the initial outcomes are very promising.

They elevated their heart rates to 65% through 20 minutes of cardio activity using stationary bikes, elliptical machines and treadmills. Wearing heart monitors they were able to chart the HR average during the workouts and plot their progress. Once the students got used to the routine, they could see how healthy living as a lifestyle is easy to achieve.

Students also had the benefit of receiving credit for their efforts, with a percentage of their Physical Education marks based on their participation in the program.

Of course this kind of cardio equipment isn't standard issue for schools. Sponsorship from Medavie Blue Cross was key to getting started.

"We've appreciated the support of Medavie Blue Cross, District 2 and our Phys Ed Mentor Tanya Thibeau" says Principal Norval McConnell. "Without the commitment of these partners the program would not have been the success it is. We are very excited about possibilities for next year".

Plans are underway for September 2011: the Move 2 Improve equipment is being moved to a larger space to accommodate the expansion of the program to serve more students.

Forest Glen School

Frontier College volunteers from U de M make a difference.

Frontier College is a national, non-profit literacy organization which was founded in 1899. They work with children, teens, adults, and families who need help to improve their literacy skills.

The College delivers volunteer-run, community-based programs across Canada in partnership with a variety of organizations. Through volunteer mobilization, leadership development, and community capacity-building, they enable communities to reach their literacy and learning goals.

This past school year, Frontier College ran programs at two sites in Moncton: a Homework Club at the Moncton Boys & Girls Club twice a week and a Homework Club at the Beechwood Community Centre that was eventually moved to Forest Glen School and ran once a week.

Students met weekly with the College volunteers to work through math and language arts homework. For those in the French Immersion Program this was also an opportunity to practice new French language skills. All of the tutors were bilingual students from l'Université de Moncton.

The program at Forest Glen School was very well received by the students and parents as well as school and district staff according to Janette Desharnais, Regional Coordinator NB for Frontier Col-



Frontier College volunteers work with students in the Forest Glen library.

lege. "It was great to see the teachers get so involved and provide material to meet each student's specific needs."

Principal Betty Vick said that she was very encouraged by the number of students who took advantage of this opportunity and that parents were very excited about having this program at their school.

"The tutors really enjoyed working with the kids at Forest Glen School and really appreciated the support from the teachers and Principal Vick. A few tutors told me how they have seen improvements in

the student's self-confidence since they started working with them. They are really excited about returning next year and re-connecting with the students with whom they formed some strong bonds" said Desharnais.

"We will continue to offer the program at Forest Glen School starting in early October once our new recruits are screened and trained. Program day, time and start date to be determined – stay tuned." says Desharnais.

Forest Glen will definitely welcome them back!

Our youngest learners get ready for September!

"Readiness for School" is a 10-week program that helps prepare 4 and 5 year old children—and their parents—prepare for kindergarten in September. Children learn through different activities that aim to develop their autonomy, social skills and language development, as well as their self-esteem and concentration. Parents and community partners play an important role in the program's delivery by helping in the classroom and with the parents' workshop.

School District 2 Transition to Kindergar-

ten Coordinator Angela Trueman and the Greater Moncton Family Resource Centre worked with Forest Glen to organize the event. Children and parents preparing for school in September came to school every Monday morning for a time of learning and making new friends.

The young students learned the routines and expectations of school and finished the program feeling more prepared for the big day and transition into Kindergarten. Parents also had opportunity to learn about the routines of school and expecta-

tions through a variety of guest speakers and topics.

Claire LaBelle, of the Greater Moncton Family Resource Centre says the program is as relevant as it was 11 years ago when it started.

"Every year, program evaluations are very positive and parents report that their child is less shy, able to follow direction, more sociable and independent. The children are more ready to learn and better prepare to begin school!"

Magnetic Hill School

Celebrating the International Year of the Forest

My life has always been immersed in nature. It has been inspiring, adventurous and fun. I have been thrilled by everything from gorillas in the rainforests of the Congo to the penguins of the Antarctic. But none of these spectacular experiences has been any more enchanting than the nature I discovered as a young boy in the ravine below our backyard.” Robert Bateman

Students from Magnetic Hill School were joined this year by students from Marshview, Beaverbrook and Queen Elizabeth Schools to participate in the Robert Bateman ‘Get to Know’ contest launch at the Magnetic Hill Zoo.

In partnership with wildlife artist Robert Bateman, the Magnetic Hill Zoo invited 30 students to participate in the national contest event celebrating the International Year of the Forest.

One of the foremost objectives of the “Get to Know” program is to applaud Canada’s young people for their passionate interest in the environment. The Get to Know Contest Calendar publishes winning artwork from each year’s contest. Over the past decade, the calendar has become one of the most widely distributed nature calendars in Canada featuring the work of young people.



Three students to make up one long snake!

Students in grade 6 – 8, with an interest in art and the environment were selected by their teachers; participants agreed to submit a piece of work, either an essay, a piece of art, a photo or a video, in the 2011 Robert Bateman Calendar Contest.

Interactive activities, presentations and conversations with speakers that included local artist Catherine Linfield, scientist Hugues Benoit from the Depart-

ment of Fisheries and Oceans, Les Sampson from Environment Canada and City of Moncton Forest Manager Heather Hawker all made for a fun filled learning adventure at the Zoo.

“It gave students a wonderful opportunity to enrich their knowledge about nature in Atlantic Canada” said Sylvia Curry, the art teacher from Magnetic Hill. “The Animal Protection Officer was a hit as he had many samples of products that have been seized in the past due to what they are made of (endangered animals).”

“Different fish species were discussed and students were able to view different ones close-up. Students not only had an opportunity to learn more about different trees, but received a drawing lesson on them as well. It was incredible to see how interested the students were in the various presentations and how well they did during the Art portion. It was a GREAT day!! “

Many thanks to the Moncton Zoo and Arlene Reade, Magnetic Hill Zoo Assistant for providing this opportunity for our students to have an opportunity to be inspired by the nature in their own backyards.

Behind the scenes with Rogers TV

Five years ago Rogers TV in Moncton starting working with educators to provide students with a behind the scenes look at the television medium in an effort to inspire and educate students.

This year, 30 students from Magnetic Hill School went to check it out. They were bussed to the Rogers TV studios where they learned about different media types, produced a story in studio with the Rogers TV set and cameras and then view their production during lunch provided by Rogers TV.

“The trip was FANTASTIC!! The kids enjoyed every minute on it! They got the chance to work the equipment and the

controls. They really liked acting out their news reports and seeing themselves on TV” said Claire LeBlanc, teacher at Magnetic Hill School.

Nathalie Lemay, Coordinator of Volunteer Resources for Rogers TV said “that it is always interesting to see the students’ response, that spark of excitement. It reminds us of how big it all is, you forget that when you work in it every day.” The students have an opportunity to learn about the different equipment and what goes into producing a show and they also learn something about themselves.

“Some can be shy to work in front of a camera, but they soon realize that every

one has talents and they are curious to see what they can do.” Lemay.

The Rogers TV Field Trip provided students with an exciting hands-on experience. They now know so much more about how what they see on TV is produced. You never know this might just spark interest in some of our students to become involved in volunteering with Rogers TV.



Shediac Cape School

Babysitting Course teaches important life skills

The YMCA of Greater Moncton came to Shediac Cape School to deliver a day long babysitting course to interested students ages 11 and over.

The students arrived at the school at 8 a.m. armed with stuffed animals and pencils and only emerged to eat a snack and lunch- courtesy of the SCS Home and School. Students spoke excitedly about the course and didn't waste any time finishing up and heading back into the classroom after lunch.

"It's great to have it offered at the school," says 12 year-old, Kayleigh Pellerin. "It's always only been offered in Moncton and Riverview and my friends and I have never been able to go. I'm really excited to be able to take it here."

Annabel Welling, SCS Home and School vice president and mother of SCS student, Ben Welling who took advantage of the course, says it's been something she and the other home and school parents have wanted to make available for a long time.

"When we were taking registrations and

we realized that we were going to have over 20 students we were thrilled," says Annabel. "This proves how necessary it is to offer the course in rural communities. These kids don't have access to everything the city kids do and it's great that they can get something like this right here at home. We'd love to be able to offer it once or twice a year. There will always be new 11 year olds."

Students were instructed on how to care for toddlers as well as infants. They brought stuffed animals and dolls from home so they could learn CPR and other emergency procedures. In order to care for children legally, students must be 12 years-old. But the course isn't just for those interested in babysitting. The course teaches important life skills for any pre-teen that may be staying home alone, or watching over a younger sibling.

At the end of the eight hour day students were given a quiz on what they had learned and if they passed -which all 25 did- were awarded a certificate from the Red Cross indicating they met the requirements to care for children and offi-

cially became certified babysitters.

Bonnie Geldart, YMCA's director of Youth Recreation and Camps, says it's important for students to have the course not only for legal reasons, but it gives them a sense of confidence when they babysit for the first time.

"There is a certain comfort level the students reach when they take the course," says Bonnie. "It's beneficial for their confidence with children and their understanding as to how the minds of much younger children work."

Kaleigh says it's important for the parents who hire babysitters to know they are getting somebody qualified to look after their children.

"I think it's really important to have the certificate," says Kaleigh. "It's like with any job, you wouldn't apply for one you weren't qualified to do. This card means that I am qualified and that parents can trust me with their children. It was a really fun day and I'm really happy I got the certification!"

In School Mentoring, con't

Ten matches are new this year, and the goal is to keep growing the program.

Grade 6 SCS student, Ethan Janhke, says that he looks forward to meeting with his mentor every week and that it's nice to have an adult to talk to who isn't a family member.

"I don't talk to a lot of grownups who aren't teachers or family," he says. "When I am with my 'big' it feels like we're friends, but he knows more than my younger friends do. It feels like I can talk to him and he'll be able to give me good advice."

Matt Dixon says he hopes the program will foster more than an emotional connection for the students. He hopes they'll appreciate the efforts of their mentors and understand how important it is to give back to the community. He says the program has had more of a positive effect on students than he could begin to express.

"The students truly enjoy when the mentors come and visit on Friday afternoons. It allows the students to develop a strong interaction with an adult working within the Shediac community," says

Matt.

"It increases their intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, and the hope is that through these partnerships the students will develop a lifelong connection and realize the importance of volunteering."

Mentoring a student can be an incredibly rewarding experience. The gift of time is the greatest you can give a child. Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Moncton for more information.

Port Elgin Regional School

Port Elgin and Region Health Centre holds Wellness Fair

The Port Elgin and Region Health Centre hosted a community health fair on May 3rd to promote all the health and wellness resources available to residents in the area. Since opening in December 2009, the Health Centre has grown to serve many residents in the region with a variety of programs and services.

The day long fair began in the morning with exhibitors set up around the gymnasium while students circulated through.

Students were particularly entranced with the hand washing station manned by nurses from the Port Elgin Health Centre. Students put invisible cream-representing germs- on their hands and held them under a black light so they could see how covered they were, students were then instructed to wash their hands with soap and water while singing the alphabet all the way through and come back. When the students returned they put their hands under the light again to see what places on their hands had been missed and where they needed to pay more attention.

“We’re all going to be so clean!” a student



in kindergarten screeched as she scurried to the bathroom a second time to get what she missed.

Among the exhibitors were representatives from the Canadian Mental Health Association, Red Cross, the RCMP, the Alzheimer’s Society, the Canadian Cancer Society –complete with a smoker’s lung- and many more.

In the afternoon, the fair was opened to the general public. People were invited to come and browse the exhibits at their leisure, or attend one of the special presentations being offered throughout the evening. The RCMP presented on internet safety for students; the Alzheimer’s Society and Canadian Mental Health Association also had presentations for interested adults.

Corinna Power, nurse at PERHC and the mastermind behind the fair, says that events like the health fair are important in big communities as well as smaller ones like Port Elgin. She says it increases the sense of community which is a contributing factor to overall wellness.

“Anywhere you live it’s important to be educated on the resources you have available for your overall health,” says Corinna. “There are a lot of people who may not understand or know why they feel a certain way and they don’t know where to turn for help or maybe they’re too embarrassed to reach out on their own.”

“Fairs like this one make it easier for people to find the help they might need and it’s less intimidating to ask questions when somebody is right in front of you with the information. I’d love and plan to do this every year.”



Marshview Middle School

A Moment of Caring

As part of the United Way's "Moment of Caring" project, 10 grade 7 students visited The Drew Nursing Home in Sackville. They spent about 45 minutes with some of the residents, reading poems, singing songs and just enjoying casual conversations.

"It's very important to residents to have a variety of activities and not always the same things," says The Drew's Activity Director, Jay Wells. "They especially love anything to do with young people so it's great when the schools can come in and provide something different for them."

Paul Toner of the United Way made the trip to Sackville to see the students and take some pictures of all the fun. He says he thinks the Moment of Caring project is

a great way for students and citizens to make conscious decisions to help out in their communities and to understand how they make an impact.

"After their project we ask the participants to send in a reflection of the activity so we can feature it on our website," says Paul.



"It's important to reflect on your actions and to really feel good about what you're doing in moments like this."

Paul says he was really touched by the Marshview students and that they are great examples of what the project is about: caring and sharing in the community.

"I was very impressed with the rapport the students had with the residents, their great interest in them, and their willingness to share," says Paul. "The teacher [Lorelei Harrison] did an excellent job preparing them and rolling with the event."

For more information on The United Way's Moment of Caring Project please visit www.gmsenbunitedway.ca.

Lessons in Fair Trade

Emily Phillips is all about playing and paying fair.

The fourth year Mount Allison student spoke to Marshview Middle School (MMS) students in May about her vision to make Sackville a designated Fair Trade Town; meaning there would have to be a certain number of fair-trade products in Sackville stores at any given time of year.

"Fair-trade is about paying a fair price for the amount of work these farmers do for their products," says Emily. "Many farmers in countries like Guatemala are living on less than \$1 a day and putting in more than an eight hour work day. In fair-trade we might be paying a little more for something like coffee or bananas, but it would be fair and help make these countries sustainable."

Emily decided to speak to youth about her vision because she believes that the younger people are when they become aware of the issue, the faster the issue will be resolved. She also thinks it's im-

portant to speak to people-like MMS students-who will be living in town for a few more years.

"I wanted to speak to you," Emily told students, "because you are the major consumers. You can influence what your family buys and you can make the decision to buy fairly traded products. The fact that you're so young helps immensely because it means you'll be providing fair wages for the farmers for longer than people who only become aware of fair-trade later in life. You're extremely important to the process."

Students were very enthusiastic about Emily's message and curious as to how they can get involved in the process of making Sackville a fair-trade town. In order to become designated, town council has to pass a bill. That process is well underway and Emily wants to ensure the town embraces it.

Grade 6 student, Amelia Flemming, says that she is really interested in fair-trade

and thinks it's very important that people like Emily come into the schools and into the town to speak about it.

"Before right now I didn't know what fair-trade was and now it makes so much sense," says Amelia. "I'm definitely going to tell my parents about fair-trade and try to buy fair-trade things. It's sad that those farmers don't get paid fairly for their work. I don't agree with that and I want to help change it."



Emily Phillips explains how coffee is processed in Guatemala.

DI: students strut their stuff on the local and GLOBAL stage

On Saturday April 16th, the 2nd Annual School District 2 Destination Imagination Tournament was held at Harrison Trimble High School. Both elementary and middle school teams participated in the tournament, which was sponsored by Lawn Rangers Landscaping, Enterprise South East, Spielo and NBCC Moncton.

Each team of 7 students demonstrated their solution to one of the DI Challenges, some focussing on Arts, others on structural and engineering skills, and one on service learning.

Each challenge required that the students work independently *and* creatively to develop a unique presentation that solved the problem while at the same time showed off their performance and presentation skills.

More than 25 volunteers helped the day run smoothly. The volunteer Appraisers who gave feedback to the teams on their presentations said it was amazing to see the creative ideas and talent. DI Tournaments are part science fair, part sporting event, and part drama festival. Costumes, props and music bring incredible energy to the day, and all the students have fun strutting their stuff.

In DI every student is a winner. Each student went home with a certificate celebrating their work, with medals going home with the top three teams. Shediac Cape's "The Tin Team" placed first in the structural challenge, "Verses! Foiled Again". And a team from Port Elgin Regional, "Team DI-namite" won the Fine Arts Challenge entitled "Triple Take Roadshow". Thus started the journey of a lifetime.

Rainy Alward, Jeshua Becker, Priscilla Burns, Sarah Landry, Max MacQuarrie and Adam Niles make up Team DI-namite. They had less than a month to raise enough money to fly to Knoxville and stay on campus at the University of Tennessee. Thanks to the extraordinary



generosity of their community, and a lot of hard work, the team was successful and they say it was an experience they will never forget.

Shelley Murphy, manager of Team DI-namite, says the entire tournament was memorable and she can't possibly pick one thing to be "the best".

"I really can't tell you the best part of the Global Finals because it was all so incredible! The kids were able to experience learning on so many levels - they saw how other teams took on the same challenge they did at the middle level (same as them) and at the high school level," says Shelley.

"They met kids from all over the world - some of them learned to assert themselves enough to approach a stranger to ask to trade a pin, or get them to sign their t-shirt, or exchange something Canadian for something American/Polish/Mexican etc."

Pin trading among the teams is something unique to the Global Tournament and Shelley says there was something educational even in that small tradition.

"The pin trading alone gave them lessons in economics that I'm sure some people

don't learn until university," says Shelley. "One of my team "traded up" six times in order to get the pin he was after!"

The students were exhausted after their trip, but say they would do it all again tomorrow. They don't expect to make Globals every year, but they also don't expect not to. There are already design plans for a pin unique to New Brunswick.

"It was amazing," says Sarah Landry. "I never imagined what it would be like to have people from literally all over the world in the same place. It's hard to explain but I want to go back again, and again."

THANK YOU to our Sponsors

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