What are we really doing?

Yikes, every day I madly scan the Sherbrooke Record flipping to the school page and reading about the wonderful school events being held at ENSB schools. There have been stories of Terry Fox runs, first day events, open houses, a "friendship bench," outings and a new sensory room.

How does Princess Elizabeth Elementary School compare. Are we doing enough? Well, we have completed a number of beginning school activities, too.

Our first day started with an optimistic and hopeful welcome to parents and students in the gym, and kindergarten parents in the library, a fun afternoon was held on the first Friday with games and activities and Mr. Freezies.

PEES students ran for Terry Fox, raising $660. We will hold a walk-a-thon for the kindergarten students around Merry Point, Cycle 1 students will walk the Cherry River Boardwalk, and Cycles 2 and 3 will climb Mount Oxford, all to raise money for their year-end trips.

The principal's geese alert sign-up sheet has started. Our anti-bullying program of pink t-shirts and assemblies is continuing with this year's theme of "One can make a difference."

PEES Community Learning Centre has also been active: the night school started with 15 presenters and 175 attendees, Grade 6 students began horseback riding at Parkside Ranch for six weeks, volunteers are signing up to mentor students in English and French in reading and/or math.

The community garden is bursting with vegetables and a celebration of "Stone Soup" will be shared with all our students in the next week. A Vesey's fall bulb fundraiser is underway to support the garden project Stage 4.

What are we really doing as teachers and staff? PEES teachers are trying to open students' hearts and minds by having them feel safe and secure, cared for and attached to an adult at school.

We want to hear laughter, see smiles, nodding of heads, pleased parents who feel we are caring, knowledgeable and excellent teachers and staff.

So please take the time to look up at the blue sky and see the wisps of clouds float by, hear the hoot of geese overhead and see the colours of the leaves.

Take a few minutes to eat with a child, smile and nod. Listen to what they have to say.

E. Bayles Creary

PEES principal

School Page

Princess Elizabeth Elementary

Everything was awesome!

“LEGO” Movie under the Stars in Potton as part of the “Cultural Days” celebration

Clara Giroux, age 5, and her sister Maeva, age 8, at the Lego Movie.

Cinema Potton is a non-profit group that was established to hold the screening of quality films and has worked hard to bring these movies locally to Mansonsville and surrounding areas for approximately five years.

Always striving for community collaboration and to bring the joy of film to all age groups, Cinema Potton approached the Missisquoi North Youth Centre (also a non-profit organization) with the idea of an outdoor family film night under the stars and the idea blossomed and grew from there.

The evening began at 5:30 p.m. with a free barbecue furnished by the youth centre and prepared by volunteers. During the barbecue, “LEGO” themed activity tables had been set up for the children to enjoy including: a Lego mask table where a variety of Lego movie characters could be created, a Lego block play table and a Lego poster colouring area.

These activity stations were abuzz throughout the evening while those gathered waited for twilight to arrive and the adventure to begin.

At 6:30, the indoor “snack shack” opened and the smell of freshly popped popcorn exited out into the warm fall evening. Snacks in hand including free fruits furnished by the Nexxenoma Company, the crowds set up their chairs and prepared their blankets.

Door prizes provided by the Youth Centre were drawn just prior to show time and included a copy of the Lego Movie on Blu-Ray, the soundtrack from the movie and a Lego play set.

By 7:15 p.m., the movie began to a delighted crowd.

With over 70 people attending, the event was easily measured by the smiles on both the children’s faces and those exchanged between volunteers from both community groups who made the event possible.

As the evening came to an end at approximately 9 p.m. many parents left with an extra bag of popcorn under one arm and their children's hands cupped in theirs.

As a group made their way from the Youth Centre toward home, one small voice summed up the evening... “Everything is awesome.”

Claire Giroux, age 5, and her sister Maeva, age 8, at the Lego Movie.

The Scoop

MABLE HASTINGS

On Friday, September 26th, as part of the “Cultural Days” celebration held all over Quebec traditionally during the last weekend of September, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre collaborated with Cinema Potton in bringing families a special fall event; the large screen projection of the “LEGO Movie” under the stars for all to enjoy.

According to the website, www.culturedays.ca, “Cultural Days are three days (this year taking place from Sept. 26-28) of interactive activities that enable the discovery and appreciation of arts and culture that are offered free throughout Quebec to the public.”

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