



Kells Newsletter

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Fall - 2011

Congratulations Kells Elementary Graduates

Kells Elementary's grade 6 graduates shared their accomplishments with family, friends and teachers at the convocation ceremony held at Oscar Peterson Hall on June 3rd. Donning regal graduation robes of royal blue, the grade 6 graduates opened the ceremony with a heartfelt rendition of O Canada. Mrs. Marla Perlman, Head of Kells Elementary, distributed hard-earned diplomas to the graduates and spoke proudly of their accomplishments. In her speech, Ms. Irene Woods emphasized the pleasure she takes in the fact that the graduates were enthusiastically involved in school-wide activities throughout their time at Kells.

Jordan Artzy-McCendie gave a sincere valedictory address to his fellow graduates. While reflecting the sentiments of his peers, he highlighted the values that had been instilled during his time at Kells and the importance kindness, consideration of others and believing in oneself will continue to play in their lives.

We were honored to have Mr. Alex Shoumatoff, a well-known American writer speak at our convocation. Mr. Shoumatoff drew on his varied life experiences to give the grad-

uates sound advice. He urged students to be curious about the world around them, to believe in themselves, and to protect the world they live in.



Ms. Perlman & Kierron Campbell-Kassie receiving diploma



David Steinberg-Zwirek receives diploma from Ms. Perlman



Charles Lee receives Outstanding Student Award



Sonia Kao receives diploma from Ms. Perlman



Mr. Kennedy and Spencer Halickman receiving award for Achievement in Music

Elementary Farewell Address



Jordan Artzy-McCendie, Elementary Valedictorian

Jordan Artzy-McCendie had the honour of delivering the Elementary Farewell Address at the 2011 Kells Convocation on June 3rd.

He began by announcing that his speech was the result of a class project involving group effort, cooperation and brainstorming. He said that the grade six graduates were confident, proud and prepared for new challenges.

At Kells, the students were taught to believe in themselves and to recognize their

strengths and talents. Each of them has something special to offer the world and the teachers encouraged them to work to make their dreams come true.

Jordan added: "We have learned to be kind to our peers ... and think about world issues and others less fortunate than ourselves. We have raised money for The Terry Fox Foundation, Unicef, The Heart and Stroke Foundation, Haiti and The Red Cross."

This grade six student used vivid imagery in his speech, saying, "Life at Kells is a nurturing environment. And, like saplings that have been given every opportunity to flourish, we have grown and matured. With such a great start in life we can weather whatever storms come our way."

In his conclusion, Jordan thanked the staff at Kells and the parents for their help and encouragement, commenting that although they were shy and unsure when they began elementary school, their self-esteem grew every year.



Elementary graduates

Awards and Special Prizes - Elementary School

Elementary Awards 2010

The Outstanding Student Award	Charles Lee
Most Improved Student Award	Jordana Kucharsky-Hiess
Achievement in French	Nicholas DiTullio
Progress in French	Sonia Kao
Achievement in Physical Education	Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf
Achievement in Music	Spencer Halickman
Achievement in Art	Jordan Artzy-McCendie
Green Committee award for Environmental Awareness	Brooke-Lynne Russo
Kells Elementary School Spirit Award	Spencer Halickman
Elementary Farewell Address	Jordan Artzy-McCendie

Canadian Mathematica Centrum Pythagoras Competition

Kudos to Elementary Cycle 3, year 2 students Simon Ahn, Jordan Artzy-McCendie, Nicholas DiTullio, Charles Lee, and Sima Sukkar who participated in the Canadian Mathematica Centrum Pythagoras Competition. Several Kells Elementary participants scored above the Canadian national average. Special Congratulations to Charles Lee, whose exceptional score placed him on the Canadian National Honour Roll. Well done!



Charles Lee

Congratulations to All our Graduates!

Grade 6 Graduates:

Sung Bum (Simon) Ahn
Jordan Artzy-McCendie
Kierron Lee Campbell-Kassie
Matthew Cioffi
Conrad Corning-Racette
Nicholas DiTullio

Michael Feoli
Caleb Foster
Adam Glay
Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf
Yazan Habashy
Spencer Halickman

Sonia Kao
Jordana Kucharsky Hiess
Rebecca Kyte
Liam Lagendyk
Wing Yee(Winnie) Lau
Seungchan (Charles) Lee

Yasmine Mahrach
Chin Wai (Joanna) Ngan
Ayana Potts
Brooke-Lynne Russo
David Steinberg-Zwirek
Sima Sukkar

Elementary Grad Party

Graduating elementary students celebrated in style at their grad party on June 16th, 2011. The school gym was completely transformed with shimmering back-lit curtains, balloons and festive coloured lights. Parents and teachers enjoyed mingling, as students danced the night away led by a D.J., M.C. and an animator. Students also visited the air brush tattoo table, took photos for personalized snow globes, played Foosball and air hockey. As if that weren't

enough, a buffet dinner, complete with a cupcake tower for dessert, was enjoyed by all. A very memorable moment was the presentation of 5 denim bean bag chairs, gifted to the new school library/media centre, from the graduating class. At the end of the night, each graduate took home a gift bag which included a t-shirt signed by all of the graduates, a generous gift from the Cioffi and Feoli families. Our very sincere gratitude goes to all members of the grad-

uation committee for their efforts in making the 2011 elementary grad party a night to remember.



Yasmine Mahrach, Ayana Potts, Brooke-Lynne Russo, Rebecca Kyte



David Steinberg-Zwirek, Winnie Lau, Sonia Kao, Joanna Ngan



Elementary Cycle 3 Camp Jouvence Trip

Cycle 3 students enjoyed glorious weather on May 30th and 31st during their stay at Camp Jouvence in Parc Orford in the Eastern Townships. They spent a sunny afternoon out on the lake in both kayaks and mayaks and enjoyed a game of kayak wa-

ter polo. A Jouvence original "Capture the Flag" style game followed dinner, and the evening ended with marshmallows roasted over a bonfire and a round of spine-tingling scary stories. The next morning, students worked together to navigate the

obstacles of Fort Jouvence. Challenges included effectively communicating with each other in order to coordinate their movements when groups of students had their feet strapped to two long wooden planks.



Athena Nemeth



Caleb Foster, Hugo Ingrouille



Manar Al Sicksick, Jessica Macintosh



Conrad Corning-Racette



Winnie Lau, Sonia Kao, Tehorakwaneken Goodleaf



Joseph Zuckerman



Looking Forward to the New School Year

2011-2012 promises to be another exciting and dynamic school year at Kells Elementary, as we continue to emphasize the pedagogical values which make our school unique, while implementing new and progressive ideas.

Maintaining a safe and nurturing school climate, with the help of our student Peace Ambassadors, remains a priority, and we will continue to abide by our Peaceful Schools International mandate. Our "Fish! Philosophy" is a means for creating a positive school culture, shaping the attitudes of our student, and the way they choose to treat others.

In order to enhance students' learning opportunities, we recognize the importance

of staying current in a rapidly changing world of technological advancement. With the addition of a SMART Board to each classroom, and the introduction of the iPad 2 to students in kindergarten through grade 6, we will use the tools of this digital age as a catalyst for teaching and learning.

This year also marks the opening of our new library/media centre. This colourful, welcoming space is sure to be favored by our students, as they enjoy reading on the comfortable bean bag chairs generously donated by the 2011 graduating class.

We recognize the value of the arts as an effective mode of developing creativity, self-expression and confidence, and our visual art, drama and music program will

once again highlight our students' vibrant enthusiasm and talent. The new school year also brings the eagerly anticipated transformation of our music room into an in-house recording studio.

Along with the stimulating curriculum plans our teachers are preparing, a variety of student clubs, committees, sports, special events, field trips and surprises will make each day a new adventure. Students' voices will soon ring out in the hallways and the school will again house an active community of learners. I look forward to sharing news of their many successes and accomplishments as we begin another exciting journey of discovery.

Marla Perlman

“Finding Stuff Out”

Kells Elementary was selected as the site for the filming of various episodes of a new science education series, produced by Apartment 11 TV, to be televised on TVO beginning in September 2011.

Cycle two and three students shared their charisma and smarts when they were filmed for segments for the show. They also had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look and learn about the production process when watching the show's director, cameraman and sound and lighting technicians in action. Students were excited to visit with the show's host, 15-year-old Vancouver-based actor, Harrison Houde, who previously appeared in the movie "Diary of a Wimpy Kid". Watch for our students' appearances on "Finding Stuff Out" on TVO, coming this fall!



Elementary Family Fun Fair

What better way to end the school year than with a Kells Elementary Family Fun Fair? A beautiful June day with sunny skies was the perfect setting for our event which included carnival games, face painting, tug of war, line dancing, potato sack races, a Glee Club performance and a huge air bouncer. Barbecued hot dogs and pizza were plentiful, and bags of old-fashioned popcorn and a bake sale added to the treats.

In addition to prizes won by students for game participation, there were terrific

prizes won in our raffle such as art supplies, sports equipment, an MP3 player and gift certificates to Cinemas Guzzo, Toys R Us, and iTunes.

Many thanks to Ms. Pinchuk for organizing the Fun Fair and to the many parent volunteers, former Kells Elementary graduates, and teachers who assisted with the event. Thanks also to the many friends and family members of the Kells community who joined us at the fair in support of the school.

