



# Kells Newsletter

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Winter 2011

## Mud and Marshmallows: Cycle 3 Adventures at Camp Jouvence

A little rain didn't stop Cycle 3 students from immediately getting into the swing of things at Camp Jouvence in Orford this past June. Upon arrival, all students skillfully navigated an intense obstacle course set up in the forest. After completing the course, a few daring souls jumped wholeheartedly into a rather uninviting mud pit.

Following the excitement of the obstacle course, some students took the opportunity to kayak on Stukely Lake while others enjoyed a relaxing round of board games in the cabin. Students closed the evening with toasted marshmallows and scary stories — Mr. Jabbour enhanced the spooky atmosphere by providing chilling sound effects with his guitar.

Survival skills, cooperation and resourcefulness were the focus of the second day's activities. In groups, students learnt how to build shelters using logs, leaves and branches. They were also taught how to make vitamin C-rich tea out of spruce needles and cooked traditional bannock bread over the fire.



## Pinwheels for Peace

Started by two American high school teachers in 2005, Pinwheels for Peace is now a worldwide art installation project. The project's founders hoped to create a visual representation of peace by having their students design and plant pinwheels that expressed their feelings about war, peace and tolerance. The spinning of the pinwheels in the wind symbolizes the spread of peace throughout the world. In its first year, participants in the project planted 500,000 peace pinwheels. Today, more than three million pinwheels have been placed throughout the world.

On September 21st, the International Day of Peace, we held a "Pinwheels for Peace" assembly in our garden. Ms. Burak led the students in reciting our Kells Peace Pledge and Grade 4 students Caitlin Heggart, Philippe Lepine, and Caroline Pi-

quette read tranquil poetry. Mrs. Perlman reminded students of Kells' mandate as a member of Peaceful Schools International to maintain a nonviolent school environment. Accompanied by Mr. Jabbour on guitar, we sang the Kells Elementary Anthem before concluding the ceremony with the planting of the pinwheels.



## 2010 Terry Fox Run: A Kells Elementary Fundraising Record!

Ms. Chapman kicked off this year's Terry Fox Campaign with a motivational assembly. Students watched a short film highlighting Terry Fox's remarkable achievements, Grade 6 students shared "Fox Facts" and everyone brainstormed creative ways to raise money. Ms. Chapman and the students set a school-wide goal to raise \$3000 this year.

On a grey and drizzly September day, all students and staff donned raincoats and ran the one-km course. Later, in an assembly, students shared the inventive ways they managed to raise money for the

Terry Fox Foundation. Grade 5 student, Manar Al Sicksick, baked cookies and sold them door-to-door; Grade 6 students, Rebecca Kyte and Mina Malaz, sang in the park; Spencer Halickman, also in Grade 6, organized a lemonade stand and raised over \$2000. Spencer was featured in the Montreal Gazette and on CTV news and was awarded Kells Elementary's first "Compassion and Citizenship Award." Kells surpassed its \$3000 goal and raised a whopping total of \$5721.03!



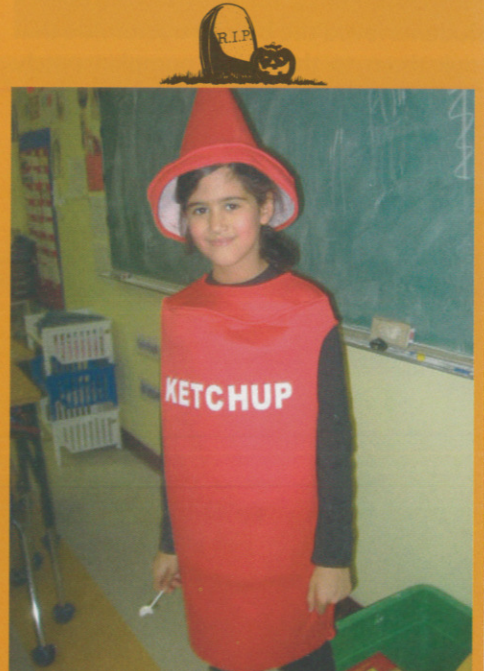
# Witches, Goblins and Ghosts... Oh My!

On October 29th, the students (and staff!) of Kells Elementary donned their most frightening, funny and outrageous costumes to celebrate Halloween. Students were able to show off their costumes — some of which included a ketchup bottle, a toilet, pirates, action heroes, William Shakespeare, and even a banana— in an informal parade in the schoolyard.



Following the parade, students spent the afternoon being led through the scary, fog-cloaked haunted house set up by the Spirit Committee in Mr. Jabbour's room. Students apprehensive about the haunted house could enjoy activities like pin-the-hat-on-the-witch and toss the eyeball in Ms. Sterling's less-frightening games room. All students enjoyed playing Halloween-themed sports like "boosketball" and "booling" in the gym with Ms. Chapman.

Each student was given a special, non-sugary treat this year: a pumpkin-shaped, light-up badge to wear trick-or-treating Halloween night.



## Commemorating at Kells: Remembrance Day Assembly

On November 11th, Kells Elementary students commemorated Remembrance Day with a school-wide assembly. Following the Glee Club's rendition of the Kells Anthem, Ms. Kelly's Kindergarten/Grade 1 class led the school in singing "Oh Canada." Grade 1 student Brian Vine read a short poem and Ms. Miller's Grade 2/3 class read their individual "I Remember" prose. Ms. Crespo's Grade 3 class shared the letters they had written to veterans and Ms. Burak's Grade 4 class recited several poems, one of which was written by students Caitlin Heggart and Maija Harper. Ms. Farid's Grade 5 class read original, peace-themed acrostic

poetry. Both the Grade 5 and 6 students participated in a presentation of French poetry and Ms. White's Grade 6 Geography, History and Citizenship class read poetry they had written themselves. Grade 6

student, Caleb Foster, recited John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" which was followed by a minute of silence. The Glee Club performed "Poppy" to close the ceremony.



# Pumpkin Picking at Quinn Farm



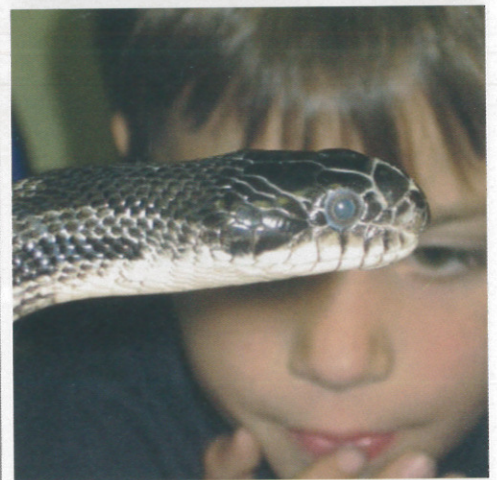
Students in Ms. Kelly's and Ms. Miller's classes spent a mild, late-October day at Quinn Farm on Île Perrot. Ms. Kelly and Ms. Miller's students loved the bumpy tractor ride that took them to the farm's pumpkin patch. The children tramped through the mud in a tireless search for the perfect pumpkin.

After enjoying a snack of homemade apple muffins and juice, the students played hide-and-go-seek in the farm's cornfield labyrinth. Before leaving, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Miller's students visited the barn and had the opportunity to see a litter of tiny, newborn piglets nestled in the hay with their proud mother.



# Visiting Critters: The Ecomuseum Zoo

Kells Elementary students approached the complexities of biodiversity hands-on when they were visited by Jenny, a zoologist from the St-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society's Ecomuseum, on November 18th. Up-close encounters with a snake, toad, ferret, turtle and a bullfrog transformed Quebec's thriving ecosystems from an abstract concept into something tangible. Students were particularly interested in a length of light-as-a-feather, nearly-translucent snake skin and were eager to share what they knew about food chains, reptiles and amphibians throughout the presentation.



## Kells Toy Story

The 19th International Contest Featuring Toys Made from Reused Materials, organized by Club 2/3, the youth division of Oxfam-Québec, culminated on December 8th at a gala ceremony held at the Montreal Biôdome. The event also launched the Creative Waste Exhibition which features toys from Canada, Bolivia, Chili, Haiti, Kenya and Paraguay.

The contest challenges participants to consider the problems of overconsumption and climate change in an exciting way. Mr. Jabbour's Grade 6 science classes put their imaginations to work using junk—like rejected bits of broken telephones and computers, bottle caps and cardboard boxes—to create toys that were both clever and interactive. The toys selected to represent

Kells Elementary at the Biôdome were "Racing Piggy" which was designed by Matthew Cioffi, Jordana Kucharsky-Hiess and Mina Malaz; "Music Sick," which was made by Charles Lee and Ayana Potts; and "D.J. Revolution," the work of Sonia Kao and Simon Ahn.

Over 1,000 youth aged 6 to 19 participated in this year's contest. Winners were selected on both the Canadian and International levels. The 19th edition of the Oxfam-Quebec contest was a special one for Kells Elementary as Sonia Kao and Simon Ahn won the Oxfam Award of Excellence at the Canadian Level and Charles Lee and Ayana Potts won at both the Canadian and International Levels. Charles and Ayana's creation is now a part of the permanent Creative Waste Exhibition which will tour museums around the world.

Photos of the event and toys can be viewed on [www.flickr.com/photos/oxfamquebec/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/oxfamquebec/). Toys submitted to the contest will be on display at the Montreal Biôdome until March 6, 2011.



## Exciting News at Kells Elementary!

Kells Elementary has received a \$450.00 grant from Learning for a Sustainable Future, an organization established in 1991 to integrate sustainability education into Canada's education system. The grant money is designated for the purchase of birdhouses and a bat box which will be installed in our outdoor garden classroom in the Spring. In addition, Kells has received a Green Apple School Program grant of \$1,000 which will also be put towards the purchase and installation of the aforementioned birdhouses and bat box.

Studies show that environment-based learning and green spaces provide substantial academic, developmental and social benefits to children. Our garden provides opportunities for environmental outdoor education, and direct interaction with the natural world. Elementary students are looking forward to the further expansion of our green garden space, and our student Green Committee can't wait to go outside and get their hands dirty once again!

## Ready, Set... Read!

Mid-November marked the start of our 7th annual Reading Challenge. This year's ambitious goal was to read 150,000 pages by December 15th – a far from daunting task for Kells' eager readers! The Spirit Committee kicked off the start of the Challenge at a school assembly. Members shared Reading Challenge facts and rallied their peers with a rousing cheer. Ms. White read the students a book – giving everyone a head start of 30 pages. The end of the Reading Challenge was marked with a special celebration on December 16th.



## Catch the Fish!

You might be asking yourself what fish have to do with this year's school-wide theme. It all started when CEO John Christensen visited Seattle's lively Pike Place Fish Market. Christensen was bowled over by the fishmongers' cheerful disposition and by the genuine enjoyment they seemed to derive from their work. As a result of these observations, he developed the FISH! Philosophy.

This year we have adopted the FISH! Philosophy to establish a positive learning and living milieu at Kells and to encourage our students to "catch the energy." Our "Kells Carp" mascot is a reminder to everyone to adopt the four principles of the philosophy: "Play, Be There, Make Their Day and Choose Your Attitude." Moreover, our four house teams have been named to reflect our theme; this year's teams are: The Friendly Flying Fish, The Super Swordfish, The Smiling Salmon, and The Goodness Guppies.

Students had the opportunity to name others who have "made their day" during our assemblies. Congratulations went to Jordana Kucharsky-Hiess, Rebecca Kyte, Maija Harper, Philippe Lepine, James McDonald, Iohnteneratatenion Goodleaf, Tyler Rosenoff, Jack Bertrand, David Steinberg-Zwirek, Caleb Foster, Serena Spinelli, Zoe Wachsberg, Austin Unruh, William Paltin, Yazan Habashy, Manar Al Sicksick, Ryan Shapiro, Charlie Bird and Lerna Margoosian who have all "caught the fish."

## COMING SOON... New Library at the Elementary

Thank you to all our parents and guardians who have contributed to our library fund by supporting our annual fundraising activities.

### Special thanks to:

- Ginena Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Lepine
- Mr. and Mrs. McDonald
- Mr. Robert Miller
- Dr. and Mrs. Nemeth

