

KELLS ELEMENTARY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014



International Day

Kells Elementary students celebrated their cultural heritages at this year's International Day held on Friday, January 31st. Students worked hard on their displays and each presented a project focusing on one aspect of his or her chosen country. Students and guests had the opportunity to "visit" other countries and were even provided with a special "passport" for the event. Students shared food, songs, pictures and stories. The choir gave a special performance of Jack Grunsky's song, "Siyanibingelela"--singing "hello" in a number of different languages. Thank you to everyone who participated and congratulations to our students.

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Pink Shirt Day

On Wednesday, February 26th, Kells Elementary students and staff marked Anti-Bullying Day by wearing a pink shirt and participating in a morning of anti-bullying activities. Activities included working together on a mural and collaboratively coming up with anti-bullying slogans and positive messages.

Pink Shirt Day takes place the last Wednesday of February across Canada. The original event was organized in 2007 by David Shepherd and Travis Price—two Nova Scotia high school students. Shepherd and Price bought and distributed 50 pink shirts to male students at their school after fellow student, Charles McNeill, was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school.



Our completed “True Colours Mural”, is made up of over 50 QR codes. When scanned, each code reveals a video of a positive and inspirational message presented by a student for students. In this way, students are encouraging others to be proud to show their true colours and take pride in their uniqueness.

Kells Elementary students who came to school wearing pink each brought in a donation of \$2. A total of \$135 will be donated to Peaceful Schools International—a charitable organization that strives to “create and maintain a culture of peace” in schools worldwide.

Typhoon Haiyan the Strongest Storm Ever to Make Landfall, Causing Widespread Damage



Listening to these heart-wrenching words about the loss and devastation to his family in the Philippines, the elementary students of Kells Elementary were galvanized into action and, using their creativity, planned a fund-raiser which collected over \$1,500 within one week!

“The Spirit Committee of Kells Elementary was originally formed for just this purpose – to sensitize students at an early age to world events and foster the spirit of giving to the victims of disaster and those less fortunate than themselves”, said Marla Perlman, Principal of the Elementary School.

In addition, students at Kells Academy raised \$1000. Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Woods, director of Kells, who is matching the student donations, \$5000 will go to the Canadian Red Cross for the Philippine Relief Fund.



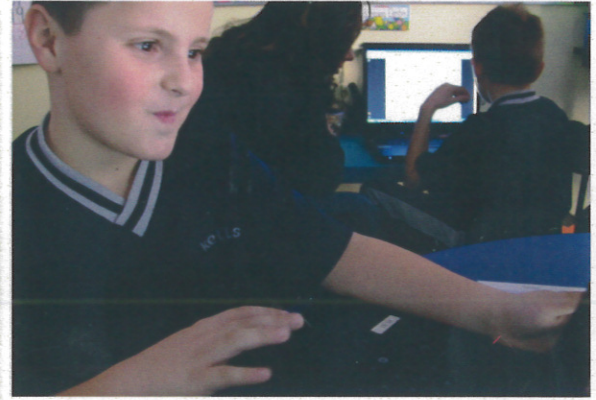
Kells to Match Funds Raised by Students for Philippines Relief

It's not every day that a tragedy overseas impacts a local school directly. But the family members of Tommy Fuentes, a 6th grader at Kells Elementary who came from the Philippines to study in Montreal, have lost everything. “My family in the Philippines lost not only their house, but also their boat which they used to catch fish to feed themselves and also to raise money”, says Tommy.

First Annual Technology Fair



On December 10, 2013, Kells Elementary held its first Technology Fair, celebrating the integration of technology and learning. In keeping with our school wide theme, "Technology for Change", students shared the results of innovative methods of digital productivity. Students displayed individual and group projects, and shared their excitement for the use of Skype, Twitter and YouTube in their daily activity. As parents roamed the hallways, they used QR codes to access teacher YouTube channels, Twitter feeds, and the ever popular KATV news.



News from Resource

October marked the launch of our new "Think Pad", where resource teacher Ms. Farid and students are working on skill development and/or enrichment using a combination of traditional methods and exciting new software and online programs. Enticed by the appeal of digital technology, the Think Pad is full of action and it is a space our students love to work in. Moreover, teachers report that our students are already making considerable progress.



Brain Awareness

Ms. Carter and Mr. Jabbour's classes recently had the pleasure of hosting two McGill University graduate students for a special Brain Awareness Week presentation. Brain Awareness Week was established by the Society for Neuroscience—the largest international organization dedicated to researching the brain. Kells Elementary students learned about the functions of the brain by participating in an exciting and interactive presentation and even had a chance to examine a real cow brain!



Sports News

BASKETBALL In their second competitive season, the Kells Elementary boy's basketball team began the year ready for action, with a full day tournament at Kuper Academy. The team made it to the finals and left with a second place plaque. The team played a number of games against local schools and ended the season with several straight wins! Great job! Special thanks to Mr. R. Miller of Future Electronics for sponsoring the team.



Back row: Ms. Eady, Zachary Majumdar, Michael Difiore, Taiyo Lunny, Miguel Ramos, Jory Cohen, Austin Unruh, Mr. Yearwood. Front row: Justin Haigh, Abdulaziz Aldakhil, Tommy Fuentes, Omar Abdullah, Mohamad El Hajj, Hayden Nicholas, and Michael Trafficante.

SOCCER Lots of Pep for a Great Soccer Season! Congratulations to our grade 5 & 6 soccer team who put forth a great effort and showed team spirit in their games against other schools. The entire school enjoyed two Pep Rallies to encourage our team. The choir performed a rousing rendition of "The Cup Song". Impressive!



TERRY FOX FOUNDATION Kells Elementary students participated with great enthusiasm in this year's Terry Fox Run, held September 26th. In the weeks leading up to the Run, students learned about Terry Fox and reflected on both his life and mission by creating their own art and poetry. Kells Elementary students' participation in this year's event raised over \$1800.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Way to go!

For the first time this year, Kells Elementary also had a girl's basketball team. Though small in number, the girls were big in spirit and played all their games with enthusiasm.

We are proud of both teams for their display of good sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork. Well done!

Back row: Zoe Wachsborg, Amanda Balazic, Serena Spinelli

Front row: Breanna Pallante, Deborah Andriantseheno, Laila Aly, Kiki Witt (Caroline Lepine not pictured)



CURLING To gear up for the Olympic Games, Kells Elementary students had the opportunity to participate in a special curling workshop. The workshop took place during gym classes on Monday, January 27th and was presented by Laura Thomas, of the Canadian Curling Association. From the program's website: "The Capital One Rocks & Rings program is designed to introduce the Olympic sport of curling to elementary school children. By bringing the curling rink to the school gym we reach children that would otherwise not have access to the roaring game."



Matthew Ancona, Lucas Pepe, Jana El Madhoun, Assol Britvina and Jada Kiddell



Winter Day

On Friday, February 5th students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 went to Les Glissades des Pays d'en Haut at Mont Avila for a day of tubing and rafting. The cold weather didn't stop everyone from having fun. A day of fresh air and fun in the snow was the perfect way to celebrate everything winter has to offer!



Olympics 2014

