



Message from the Board

Roller Skating for Mental Health Fundraiser

The past few years of social isolation and sustained uncertainty about the future have been a trying time for many of us. For some, particularly those of us already at risk, the personal, economic, social and cultural challenges we have encountered throughout the course of the pandemic have led to an overall decline in our mental health.

Edge Hill Country School has always sought to foster positive, engaged relationships within our membership and the community at large, but opportunities to gather together have been few — until recently. As a way to bring awareness to the importance of mental health, and in an effort to support it, we held a roller skating for mental health fundraiser at the Neudstadt Arena on April 16th. To add to the fun, we made it an '80s themed event, inviting all participants to dress up in their finest '80s inspired garb and come roll it out on the rink. It was a fantastic success!

More than 50 people joined us, many with great outfits and many smiles. While it was a tough call, prizes for donning the best '80s gear were awarded to Mr. Casey and Grade 5 student Madison! We had an awesome playlist to accompany us, care of the talented Tamara Brook-Allred, and information available about local mental health and related services. The event was a wonderful opportunity to have fun, work on our fitness, be present (required in an effort not to fall!) and to come together for a united cause. AND, we raised over \$290 for the Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce! Many thanks to all who joined us, shared the event with friends, and to those who were able to donate. Check out <https://greybruce.cmha.ca> for more information about mental health services in our area.



Class News

Lisa Early

Kindergarten

The snail class has been busy and will keep us updated in the next newsletter.



Erin Little

Grade 1



Tea for 13

Kindness. Honesty. Service. Virtues are the essence of our character and when we keep the practice of virtues at the heart of everyday life, we live with purpose.

It's never too early to learn how to be kind, live with honesty and cultivate compassion, especially when you step into the four walls of a classroom.

On Wednesdays the Firefly Class started a new tradition of weekly tea parties. When Ms Erin took over the class she decided that she wanted to build on cultivating an environment of kindness, compassion and working together.



Every week the class gathers around the table to enjoy a baked good, fresh fruit, a warm cup of tea and a story from the Book of Virtues. The book is intended for the moral

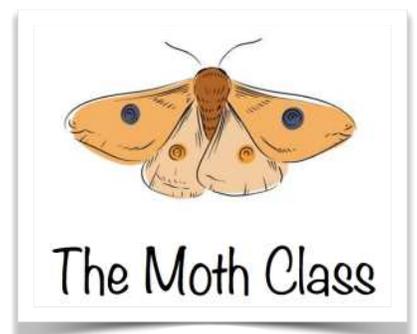
education of the young and is divided into different virtues: self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, and faith. Their favourite story thus far has been "The Emperor's New Clothes," the virtue of honesty. The underlying message is that we must not let



pride or fear keep us from speaking up. The class loved that at the end of the story it was a child who was willing to speak the truth when no one else would, a valuable life lesson.

Jessica Marin

Grade 2/3



Moth Class has been embracing the spring fairies. The grass is turning green, the daffodils are sounding their trumpets, and the students have entered a farming block. The four elements of nature are used as an introduction to composting, soil health, the water cycle, cloud formations, elements of fire,

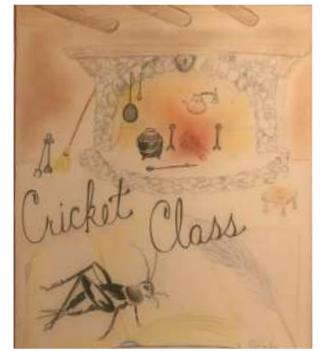
seed dispersal and farming processes. Pingu, the chicken, joined the class during our chicken study and children had the opportunity to snuggle her if desired. The Moth Class also attended their first science fair, and it was a great success. Students created beautiful displays and did a wonderful job discussing their projects and ideas. More recently the students have been getting their hands dirty digging for worms and planting in the school gardens. The students painted beautiful signs for the school compost bins, creating efficient composting systems. Each student has planted vegetables and we do a weekly observation and study on the growth of our plants. The class is so excited to come back after the weekend and see the progress their plants have made in a short period of time.

Cursive writing is an endeavour embraced by the children. We began by practising each letter and quickly progressed to writing entire poems in cursive. Painting is an opportunity for the class to learn new technique and explore color and form, while displaying their creativity and imagination. The children anticipate Mr. Searson (the Jolly Piper), our music teacher, as he provides a wonderful time filled with joy and movement.

With only a few weeks left of school, Moth Class will continue to indulge in farming and the natural world through vegetable growing, campfires, and the exploration of different seeds.

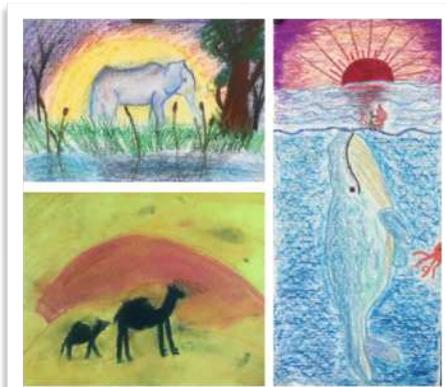
PJ Dean-Thornton

Grade 4



Since the last newsletter way back near Valentine's Day, the Cricket Class shot confetti to celebrate February 2nd, 2022 at exactly 2:22 and 22 seconds! Ah! Now the emerald green days special to late spring are upon us!

The 4th grade has recently finished a fascinating Human and Animal block, exploring



the incredible expertise and specialized bodies and abilities expressed by the array of animals in our world.

We have tried various ways to

experience exaggerating our own senses and movements such as the long feet of a frog. We strapped a long stick to each child's foot and launched off it with the other foot stepping up onto a chair. It was shocking to grasp just how far we would spring! We explored how the knee of a cow is tucked up at the height of her body mass, with very limited movements of her upper leg and shoulder. Her ankle is up high and she reminded us of a lady mincing along on high heels! Did you know seals have finger bones in their flippers and sea lions still "walk" on their back tail flippers? Looking with care, the whale's blowhole is its nostrils, and an elephant's trunk is a fusing of the upper lip and



nose (and more perceptive than a bloodhound. They lift their trunk like an antennae to scan smells!). Then there is the boneless attribute of an octopus' tentacle, acting also as a powerful arm that can uproot trees, but with a sort of "hand" on the end that can delicately pick up a leaf! But, the octopus' tentacles may in fact be better compared to our lips! We explored inside the tortoise's shell (which is really an augmentation of their spine and rib cage), turkey snoods, camel humps and so much more.



The children worked in clay while exploring where the forces of the animal's gesture was concentrated, and we also worked with pastels for the first time! And we drew a life-sized blue whale down on the quiet road below the school!

The animals also display exaggerated soul qualities. In contrast, we explored the human, with our upright stance and free hands, and a mind that loves to ask "why?" Our more neutral features allow us freedom to navigate the self through a range of environments, making tools to help us — and we must choose whether to react with empathy or anger and fear. The students are bringing in wonderful research projects on an animal of their choosing.

For a few days after March Break, the class cared for a batch of five rescued baby squirrels whose home had been destroyed, before the babies were shuttled on to Procyon Wildlife

Rescue. This is an amazing animal rescue center that could use our support! I hope to do a fundraiser for them some day.

Our math skills are looking great. Money and time, math facts, place value, divisibility rules and more are well practiced. Ms PJ built a small wrecking ball contraption to make practising math facts fun for students brushing up on those last few facts.



The Cricket Class had a full journey through Fractions, anchoring concepts in story, manipulatives, math steps and worksheets, and colourful constructions in our main lesson books. We have planted "5th-Grade-garden and 6th-Grade-garden" "mathseeds" (as opposed to kindergarten!), touching on closely related decimal and angle concepts as well.

We also explored the structures underlying skilled writing. We had a tour of the parts of speech along with many silly songs. Students tried a bit of sentence diagramming which demands a new way of thinking and helps down the road in learning foreign languages! It also brings a visual order to the studies.

We introduced paragraph and essay structures in the form of The Skeleton Staircase (I'll leave you guessing!) And we learned basic skills needed for writing about our animal research.





We also learned about the “story mountain” structure behind novels. The children read *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton, and reported weekly on their reading. Then we went to Kimberley on a gorgeous spring day amid the blossoming trillium and hiked a real escarpment mountain, comparing our journey to that of the story! By the by, the children encountered a campfire on the mountain that had not been properly extinguished and they rallied to make sure it was well put out. As well, we found two heavy bags containing invasive plants somebody had collected, with a note saying “Please carry to parking lot?” Our rugged lot vied to be the ones to lend a hand, and both Ari and Hudson each lugged a bag all the way out, refusing many offers of help! We also heard some tall tales, which were just right for the boisterous but savvy 4th grade spirit!

In other news, we loved getting outside to clean up, honour the element of water, (and the spring peepers!) and put a nice cover on our wigwam on Earth Day. For sports fun, the children wildly



enjoyed learning the game of kickball! And we THANK the hard workers who created an AMAZING Mayfair for us from the bottom of our hearts!

Please come out to see our play, “The Theft of Thor’s Hammer,” after school on June 15th!

Casey Hayes

Grade 5



The Grade 5 Class finished off their study of Ancient Civilizations

with an in-depth study of Ancient Greece. We listened to Greek myths and hero tales and strived to illustrate our main lesson books.



You may have noticed the Grade 5 students practising the Olympic Games around the campus. We have been learning how to throw the javelin and discus, run long and short distances and do the long jump. We will be travelling to Toronto to compete with other Grade 5 classes from other schools. Additionally we are rehearsing our class play, “Perseus the Brave”. This is a story of courage from ancient Greece. In between practising the Pentathlon they are learning their lines, crafting



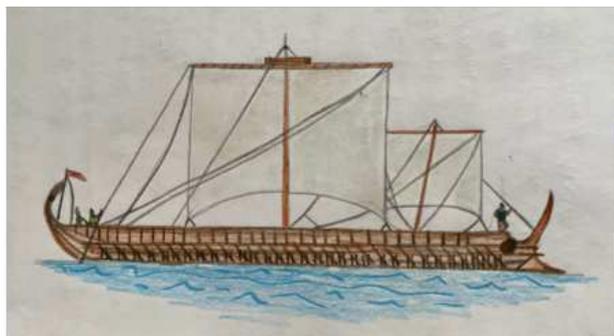
props and putting together their costumes.

On May 27th the Grade 5 Golden Bee class gathered with Grade 5 classes from The Toronto Waldorf School, The Waldorf Academy, Halton Waldorf, Trillium Waldorf, and London Waldorf at The Toronto Waldorf

School for the Olympic Games. This all-day event saw students proudly wear their Greek chitons (tunics) and compete in five events from the classical Greek Olympiad. The students were divided among six Greek city states. The competitors were judged for their strength, speed, grace, beauty, form and sense of fair play. In addition to composing a personal oath to a Greek God of their choice, the Olympians swore an oath to great Zeus who saw fit to bless the competition with sunshine, instead of the thunderstorms forecast.

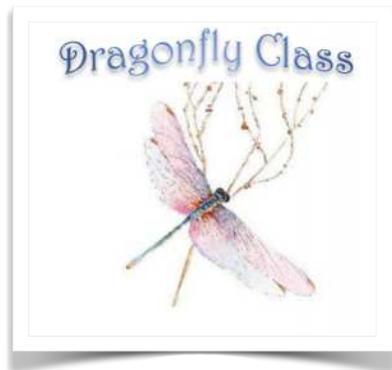


At the end of the games the competitors were recognized for their skills and unique contribution to the day. Each child received a handmade clay medal as a memento. The Golden Bee Class performed honourably and made new friends among the participating classes.



Lise Gunby

Grade 6/7



Sitting on the grass in our "Greenwood" (the site of our class play on a Robin Hood theme and also the home of Ron and Hester) this week and watching the students rehearse is an experience of admiration and gratitude. Those kids! They learn enormous tracts of lines, develop hugely into their roles, and put their heart into a group effort. It is



magical, lifting words off photocopied pages and transforming them into a collaborative creation. One of the biggest gifts in a year is the class play, and it's a gift for all of us, students, families, and teacher. We hope you were able to come and see it on Friday, June 3.

When we could spare the time after rehearsing, practising for May Fair, and training for the Greek Olympics, our recent blocks of study have included "Wish, Wonder, and Surprise" (creative writing), geometry, and "Explorers: the Great, the Good, the Bad, and the Nasty." History: much stays the same, but a great deal also needs changing, so that we can see clearly how human beings have not always made "human" choices or even taken the time to comprehend and feel compassion.

Students are getting close to finishing their Waldorf dolls, who as of yet are hairless! I wish we had more time and year left to keep honing our recorder playing. It is lovely to have different recorders in ensemble. In French we are making real progress, and seem to have a handle on a good deal of new vocabulary as well as key irregular verbs and the main regular verb families. Math: we do this every day, rain or shine!

The Medieval Games were a pleasure, and thanks goes to Elicia Vine, Glencolton Farm, and all the volunteers who helped make this day a success. It was wonderful to meet other Waldorf students and teachers from across southern Ontario.

This week we welcomed River Glen Breitbach, an amazing singer-songwriter, to talk about writing and playing music. This was a great honour and also great fun! We wrote a song about our class pet, Midnight the guinea pig, and even set some of our opening verse to music. Thank you so much, River!



Unconventional jousting at the Medieval Games and some Grade 6-7 pages help the princesses finish the obstacle course.

My heartfelt and absolute thanks to the parents of the Dragonfly Class this year, who have all been so helpful, thoughtful, and kind.

