

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

St. Anthony Catholic School raises \$342 for Terry Fox Foundation



The St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School raised a total of \$320 for the Terry Fox Foundation, bringing their total to \$3,067.97 over the past 10 years. The older classes gather in front of the school for a rally photo before hitting the streets of Harrow to walk for Terry Fox. The students made signs to recognize the purpose of their walk, letting everyone know in downtown Harrow that they run with Terry Fox. There was a feeling of excitement in the school as they participated in the walk. Walking with Terry Fox is a Canadian tradition that students throughout the ages are proud to take a part of.

St. Anthony Participates at Pronger Cross Country Meet



The coaches of the St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School are proud of the accomplishments of their cross country athletes. A total of 31 students participated and 6 placed in the top ten of their heats.

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St. Anthony Donates over 700 Cans to Harrow Food Bank



The students and staff donated boxes upon boxes of cans, pasta, boxed goods and even toiletries to the Harrow Food Bank. They were dedicated to "canning hunger" and brought in cans throughout the month. These strong students, with the help of their principal Joe Iacono and Grade 8 Teacher Roselyn Welsh, brought them to the food bank on October 6 so the shelves could be stocked before the Thanksgiving weekend.

St. Louis school supports local food bank

By Bryan Jessop

They're too young to acquire a G-class licence, but that hasn't stopped St. Louis Catholic Elementary School students from "driving" away hunger.

A collection of canned good and non-perishable items for the annual Drive Away Hunger campaign was picked up at the school by the Essex County branch of Farm Credit Canada Friday, Oct. 7. The week-long gathering of student contributions worked out to a sum of 4,482 meals from the school, delivered by FCC this year to the Leamington Salvation Army food bank. Normally, St. Louis makes the annual donation to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Michael's Church on Elliott Street, but the new version of the church is still currently under construction.

"They're one of the biggest collectors we have," said Essex County FCC relationship manager associate Jamie Tellier, one of four local Farm Credit Canada employees who picked up the St. Louis collection to load up two full-size pickup trucks with bags and boxes of food items. "What they do for us is huge. They really put their hearts and souls into it."

This year's St. Louis collection worked out to about 1,500 pounds of contributions brought from home by the school's 429 students. Last year's donation tipped the scales at about about 4,000 pounds, but was made up of a larger percentage of canned goods. This year, the school put greater emphasis on collecting lighter yet equally filling items such as cereals, pastas, dried potatoes and other boxed items including granola bars.

Grade 6 leadership students helped Tellier, Henry Hotz, Steve Anthony and Zak Brunato fill up the two trucks before the collection was sent to the Leamington Salvation Army — which in recent weeks has experienced a shortage of supplies for its food bank program.

"I think they did an excellent job," said St. Louis co-principal Kelly Riley of both the school's efforts and the Grade 6 class's organizational efforts. "The community has been very generous too. We've brought in a tremendous amount of food for five days."

The local FCC branch spent much of last week driving from school to school across Essex County picking up donations for various local food banks.

"It's a way to focus on reaching out to the poor," Riley noted. "It's something the kids have done simply out of generosity, to give back to their community."

Backed by a lengthy list of local and national sponsors, Farm Credit Canada conducts its annual Drive Away Hunger campaign — now in its 13th year — in communities across the country. In Ontario alone, about 360,000 people rely on food banks each month, more than one third of whom are children. For more information on the program, visit the website www.fcc-fac.ca/en/in-your-community/fcc-drive-away-hunger.html.



St. Louis Catholic Elementary School Grade 6 leaders reveal the nearly 4,500 meals they collected for the Leamington Salvation Army food bank for this year's Farm Credit Canada Drive Away Hunger campaign.



Essex County branch Farm Credit Canada employees Henry Hotz, Steve Anthony, Zack Brunato and Jamie Tellier add up and weigh bags full of food donations at St. Louis Catholic Elementary School Friday, Oct. 7. This year, the school donated nearly 4,500 meals to the Leamington Salvation Army food bank. (SUN Photos)

Funny Money returns to Cardinal Carter

By Bryan Jessop

Responsible financial management, although taken seriously, was at the same time a laughing matter at a local high school.

The North America-wide program Funny Money Inc., launched 16 years ago by renowned comedian James Cunningham, made a return trip to Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School Thursday, Oct. 6. Cunningham himself made the most recent appearance, conducting a 50-minute lesson on financial management to an auditorium full of senior students in the school's auditorium.

The presentation offers a comedic element to lessons on three strategies of financial literacy — know your flow, control what you owe and invest and save some dough.

"The most important thing is, this stuff here (money) should never make decisions for you," Cunningham explained to the gathering of Grade 11 and 12 students. "You have to make decisions always controlling this stuff."

The school's guest shared some sobering facts during his presentation, pointing out that students across North America spent roughly \$100 billion last year, yet only earned

\$5.6 billion within the same time frame. The statistic, he explained, highlights the importance of why students should "know their (cash) flow."

Cunningham instigated the Funny Money Inc. program in 2000 with the intent of educating college and university students on how to control debut and manage available finances, but noted that high school seniors — about to take on the expenses associated with a post-secondary education, and living on their own — can also benefit from learning responsible money management. A University of Toronto graduate, Cunningham has performed across North America and beyond as a stand-up comedian and has been featured on television programs including Last Comic Standing, Just For Laughs, Comedy Now and Comedy Inc. Currently, he hosts the televised series Eat Street on the Food Channel in Canada and The Cooking Channel in the U.S.

Assisting Cunningham with Funny Money Inc. are comedian cohorts Steve Levine and with French presentations, Denis Grignon. All three are currently Ontario residents. Intent on teaching teenagers the importance of becoming financially literate before completing high school and living in the real world, Cunningham noted that Funny Money does not charge schools for taking part in the program. In Ontario this year, the trio will visit 400 schools across the province. The tour of educational institutions is supported by sponsors Meridian Credit Union, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Ontario provincial government.

"It's a great message and the kids are having fun with it," said Cardinal Carter principal Dwayne Brunet. "It's very positive, looking at things from a new perspective and having fun at the same time."

Funny Money presentations at Cardinal Carter have been arranged by business studies and cooperative education program department head Pam Chapman, who has brought the program to the school about half a dozen times. Levine appeared at the school in 2013 and Cunningham's most recent prior visit was in 2011.

"I love this," Chapman said of Funny Money Inc. "I've been arranging it every chance we get. Financial literacy is so important and it's nice to have these resources. He (Cunningham) knows his target market so well and Steve was really on point too."

Typically, Cunningham makes one morning and one afternoon performance per day for five days per region, arriving in the Windsor-Essex County area once every other year. Chapman explained that she will book Funny Money again in the spring of 2018 to arrange a presentation in the fall of the same year.

Additional financial tips and instruction can be accessed at the Ontario Teachers Federation website www.inspirefinanciallearning.ca.

” *“Financial literacy is so important and it's nice to have these resources.”* — Pam Chapman



Comedian James Cunningham brought his "Funny Money" tour to Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School Thursday, Oct. 6. Cunningham founded the program 16 years ago with the intention of showing college and university students how to fend off debt and bolster financial resources by investing. He has since expanded the North America-wide program to include high school students.

St. Louis exceeds goal in Terry Fox Run

By Bryan Jessop

A bigger population has translated into bigger results for an annual charitable cause supported by St. Louis Catholic Elementary School.

On Thursday, Sept. 22, all students from junior kindergarten to Grade 6 took part in the school's 12th annual Terry Fox Run. The fundraiser was the first for St. Louis since officially amalgamating with the JK-6 students from Queen of Peace School. Although the merger boosted the remaining school's population from 340 in June of this year to the current figure of 429, it was still able to surpass its goal of raising \$1 per student. This month, St. Louis will present a cheque of \$450 to the Terry Fox Foundation.

"The kids are always excited about the run. They're eager to do their part every year," said Kelly Riley, co-principal at St. Louis Catholic Elementary along with Marta Marizita. "There are a lot of families in and beyond Leamington that are affected by cancer. Nowadays, everyone knows somebody who is a cancer patient."

As is done in many other cancer fundraising events, several students wore stickers bearing the "I'm Running For..." stickers, each with personalized phrases ending in the name of a loved one who has been diagnosed with or has died of cancer. For a duration of about 45 minutes, staff

and students walked, ran or jogged laps around the school property at the west of the building, many carrying flags or posters or wearing shirts in support of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope that took place more than three-and-a-half decades ago.

No longer home to Grade 7 or 8 students, Grade 6 pupils at St. Louis are taking on leadership roles that thus far have included organizational responsibilities for this year's Terry Fox Run.

"The younger kids really look up to them as leaders in the community," Riley said. "It means a lot to them."

The fundraising segment of this year's Terry Fox event at St. Louis officially kicked off with the Student of the Month assembly in the gym that took place Friday, Sept. 16. From there, students began making contributions to the run as requested during the assembly. Riley explained that the \$1 per student goal has been exceeded every year since the school first started getting involved in 2005. Since the merger with Queen of Peace JK to Grade 6 students as announced and voted on by the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board in the spring of this year took effect, the sense of community involvement has strengthened, Riley explained.

"Things are going very well with the new school community," she said. "Everyone here has really come together as a family."

The new Cardinal Carter middle school currently being hosted by the former Queen of Peace School also recognized this year's Terry Fox Run with a school-wide presentation in its gymnasium Friday, Sept. 30. Afterwards, students marched from the school to Seacliff Park for a group photo for its own version of the walk-a-thon.



St. Louis Catholic Elementary School students and staff make their way around the school's back property for this year's Terry Fox Run Thursday, Sept. 22. (Submitted photos)



A group of students pose for photos during the St. Louis Catholic Elementary School's Terry Fox Run. Students from junior kindergarten to Grade 8 raised a total of \$450 for the Terry Fox Foundation this year.

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St. John the Baptist Blazers celebrate first 'Walk and Wheel' week

Students encouraged to bike, rollerblade or walk to school this week

Story and photo by
Matt Weingarden
Staff Reporter

This week students at St. John the Baptist School in Belle River were encouraged to take part in the first annual "Walk and Wheel Week" at the school.

Students who are normally dropped off by parents were asked to bike, scoot, rollerblade or walk to and from school.

The event was launched with a Bike Rodeo hosted by the Lakeshore and Tecumseh OPP detachments. Students were shown the proper way to wear and adjust a bike helmet to size.

"We're here today to teach the kids bicycle safety and the proper way to use a helmet," Officer Winand-Bacon of the Lakeshore detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police. "We want to try to keep the kids as safe as possible when they are

out there biking on the streets."

Winand-Bacon says that students were also taught about the proper use of hand signals and were then put through a figure-eight obstacle course.

"I think the kids have been doing a great job today," said Winand-Bacon. "We encourage them to do these exercises at home so that they get used to using the new skills they've been taught here today."

Joining Winand-Bacon was officer Karen Sinnaeve, of the Tecumseh detachment of the OPP.

The week long celebration and bike rodeo was organized by Gr. 5 teacher Kristin Schnieder-Quinn and Gr. 8 teacher Kristopher Tremblay in conjunction with a provincial program entitled 'Eco-Schools.'

"We are part of a provincial wide group called 'EcoSchools.' And this is our third year participating," said Schnieder-



Officer Winand-Bacon of the Lakeshore OPP, right, and officer Karen Sinnaeve, of the Tecumseh detachment of the OPP put on a Bike Rodeo for the students at St. John the Baptist School in Belle River as part of Walk and Wheel Week at the school. In the photo above they check students bike helmets for a proper fit.

er-Quinn.

"We thought that so many of the students are dropped off by parents, this would be a great way to encourage our students to get some exercise and ride or walk to school," Schnieder-Quinn said. "Not only does it get the students active but it also lessens the impact on our environmental footprint."

The Eco Team is involved in a

number of projects throughout the school year including a book drive and Earth Week activities. Funds raised through the year help to purchase supplies for the Eco Team like waste bags, tools and even trees.

"School is so much more than learning in a classroom, it's about learning outside as a family and a community," said Schnieder-Quinn. "These kids need to know that they

can ride their bikes to school and feel safe in our community. It's also a conscious lifestyle choice too."

She added that it's never too early to educate kids with regards to preserving the environment.

"When they are 8, 9, 10 or 11 it's a great time to teach our kids lessons that will last a lifetime."