



A scene from 'Thriller', by the Cardinal Carter junior and senior dance classes.

Cardinal Carter presents Dance-o-logy homage to the '80s

By Pat Bailey

It was a decade of big hair, neon fashion and the introduction of MTV to the music scene.

And last week, Dec. 2-4, dancers from Cardinal Carter Secondary School took to the stage in four sold-out performances, and paid homage to the '80s and some of its outstanding musicians of the decade.

It was the 14th presentation of 'Dance-o-logy', a performance introduced by teacher Maggy Sonoski years ago, with the encouragement and support of then vice-principal Theresa Georges, in an attempt to boost the program and showcase the talent within the school.

But Sonoski, who's been working on the show since July, has always believed the onstage performance helps the dancers develop self-confidence, while learning the elements of dance and choreography.

"But more importantly," said Sonoski, "my wish is that they learn that with determination, focus and drive, good things can happen."

"Not only were they engaging their bodies in dance and physical activity, they were also engaging their minds in other disciplines such as history, art, geography, geometry, problem solving and social studies," she added.

Despite the overwhelming amount of work involved, Sonoski said she feels it's important to continue the show, to give other students, prospective students and the community a taste of what is learned in class and what is possible to achieve by working together and committing their time and energy to this annual performance.

Sonoski can't believe how much the production has grown over the years. With 134 dancers involved, including her own students, dance teams from Carter's feeder schools (Queen of Peace, St. Louis and St. John de Brebeuf), the Cardinal Carter Exploring the Arts class and the Cardinal Carter Adult Community Dance Troupe, Sonoski is of the belief it's important to share her passion for dance.



The Cardinal Carter dance team, including Selena Spano and Gabrielle Policella, has a little fun performing a 'Prince Medley'.

"We include the feeder schools to share our passion for movement," she said. "We are honored to be able to share our talents and gifts with the young ones so that they too can be a part of our Carter dance family."

But she said this wouldn't be possible without the dedication of her students. She said in order to pull this off, her students have been practicing in their daily classes, as well as two extra practices a week since September.

"Our dance team students also go out to feeder schools twice a week to teach the various elements of dance, choreography and performance they have learned in class," she said.

"I enjoy the students very much, it's an honor to work with such gifted, talented and dedicated youth," she added. "They are hungry to learn and engage their minds and bodies in the beautiful art form that is dance."

The result? Four sold-out performances.

This year's theme, 'Totally '80s', featured a wide variety of dance from lyrical to hip hop, and featured some top music from the '80s – including Michael Jackson, Madonna, Devo, Elton John, Prince and Guns N Roses.

The reason for the '80s theme, said Sonoski, "this year I wanted to educate the audience and dancers on the decade."

More importantly, "My hope is that the audience not only has a chance to see what I teach in the dance room, but also to be inspired by these young students."

"They truly inspire me," said the proud teacher and choreographer. "Their zest, synergy, Catholic values and dedication is admirable."



Members of the senior dance class take to the stage to perform 'Masquerade/Phantom of the Opera' at Cardinal Carter's presentation of 'Dance-o-logy'.



Bianca Figliomeni portrays Marilyn Monroe, as she dances to 'Candle in the Wind' at last week's 'Dance-o-logy' performance at Cardinal Carter.



Jacqueline Komsic, Dimitria Liovas and Lauren Pirolli, members of the Cardinal Carter dance team, perform their interpretation of 'Every Breath You Take'.



'Puttin on the Ritz', left Dimitria Liovas and right Kelsey Augustine.



'Whip It', left Melissa Gebrael and right Dimitria Liovas.



'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go', left to right, Brennah Winterburn, Selena Spano and Giullana Porrone.

Rotary Club surprises Cardinal Carter Cougars Robotics team with \$2,000 donation

"To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." - FIRST

The Leamington Rotary Club recently visited Cardinal Carter Secondary School with a surprise donation of \$2,000 for the Cougar Robotics 4923 team.

The club supports Cougar Robotics' mission to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

This year will be Cardinal Carter Cougar Robotics' third year in the FIRST Robotics competition that includes over 10,000 Ontario students and over 300,000 throughout the States and many more from around the world.

In order to maintain a local team and support youth participation in competi-

tions, Cougar Robotics must raise about \$10,000 each year. To do so, team members participate in fundraising activities and outreach to companies and organizations for donations, mentoring and assistance.

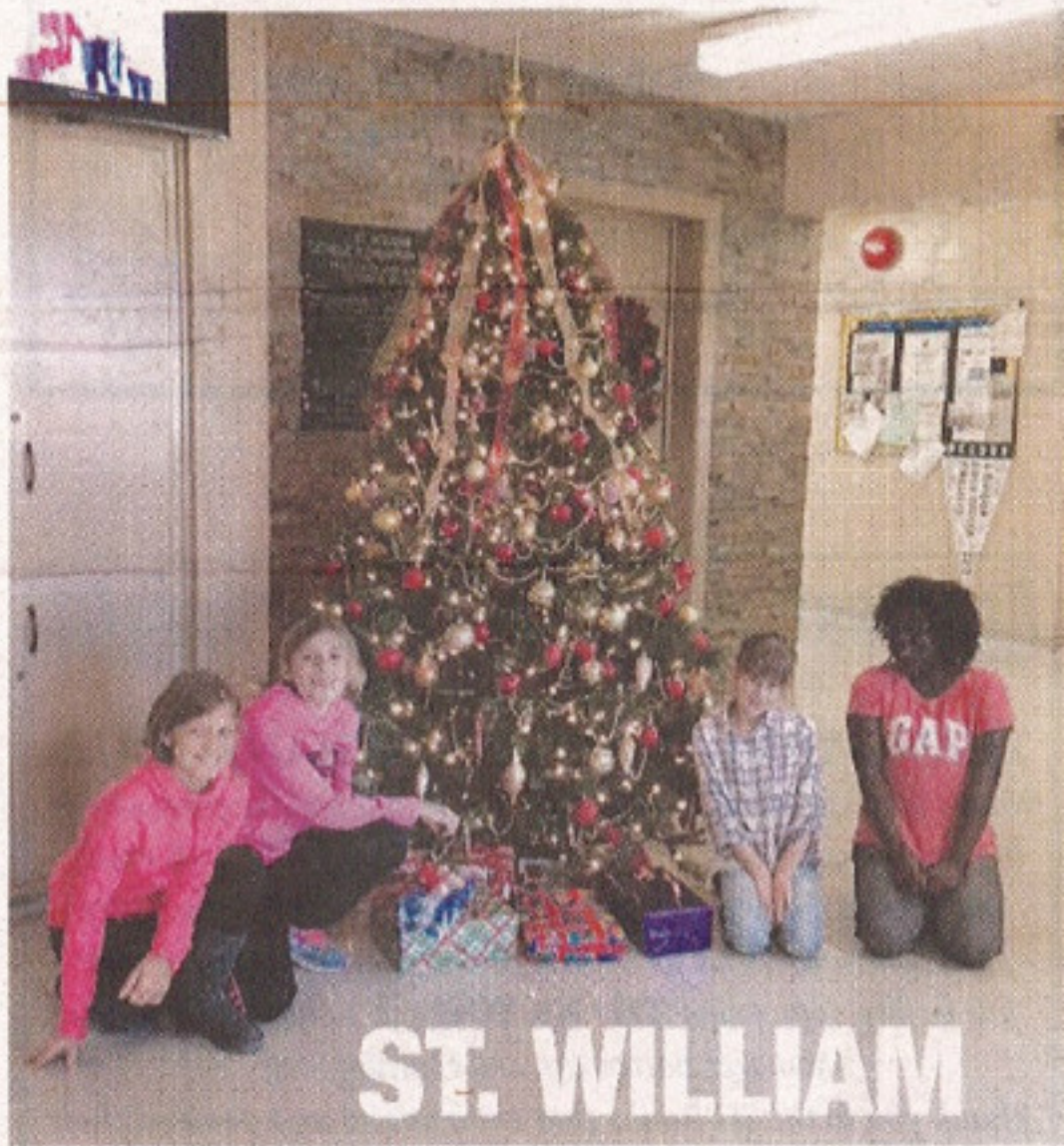
It is through the generosity and community support like that of Leamington Rotary that makes it possible for Cougar Robotics to cov-

er the costs of parts, tools, competition fees, transportation, supplies, hardware, software and team uniforms. For more information on Cardinal Carter Robotics, contact cougar-robotics4923@gmail.com



The 2015-2016 Cougar Robotics team from Cardinal Carter Secondary School received a surprise \$2,000 donation from Leamington Rotary Club. In front, from left to right, are: Spencer Rodriguez, Quinn Chambers, Gavin Cameron, Hannah Iacobelli, Craig Tavares, Jackson Klassen, Rotary Club president Wendy Parsons, Rotary New Generations representative Donna LaPointe, Charmaine Gaoi, Ariel Simpson. In back: teacher/mentor Brad Chambers, Spencer Prior. (Submitted photo)

'The Giving Tree'



**Submitted
By: M. Ylm**

St. William school was busy preparing for Advent and the upcoming Year of Mercy, which begins December 8th, 2015. The Mission Team and our Parent Council teamed up with our Parish of Good Shepherd for a new

project-The Giving Tree. This year, it was thought that students of St. William school could help those less fortunate than themselves and bring in presents for children-students helping students. We thought this was the perfect thing to do. I guess you could say we did this in the spirit of Christmas,

while preparing for Advent.

What made the project meaningful was that each class was assigned a child either their age, or close to their age to purchase gifts for.

The "gift wish list" of each child went home in a letter explaining a project. Many students were amazed that the wish lists included clothing and pyjamas, while many said they never think to put those items on their own list, giving a glimpse into the lives of the poor.

We learned the importance of giving to those who go without and showing mercy to others. When all was said and done, twenty-four large bags of gifts over 400 items went out our door and into the doors of others.

We sure hope they enjoy their gifts and know that we will be praying for them. Good job Wildcats!

THE WINDSOR STAR.

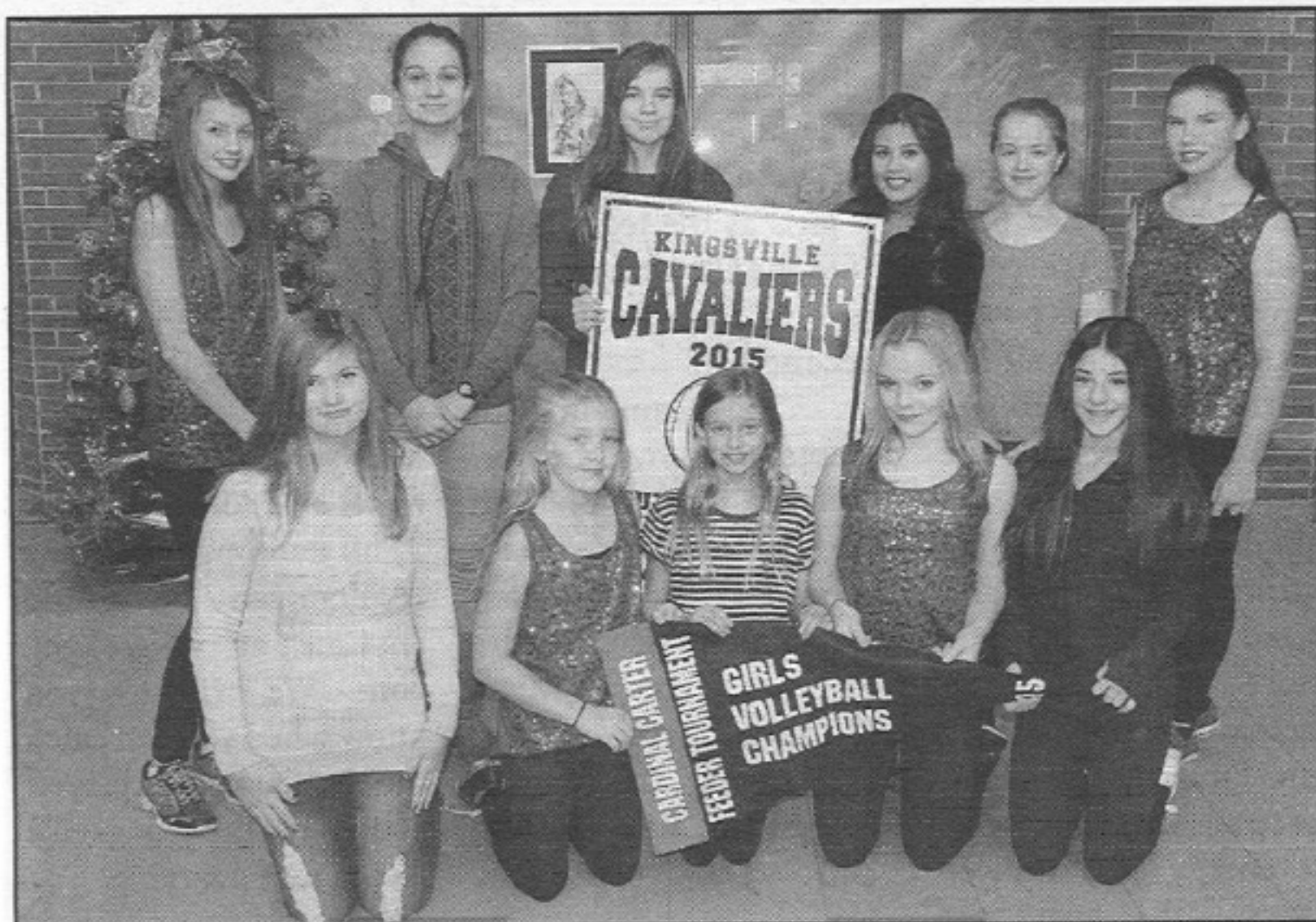
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SANTA'S HELPERS AND THEIR BUS OF TOYS

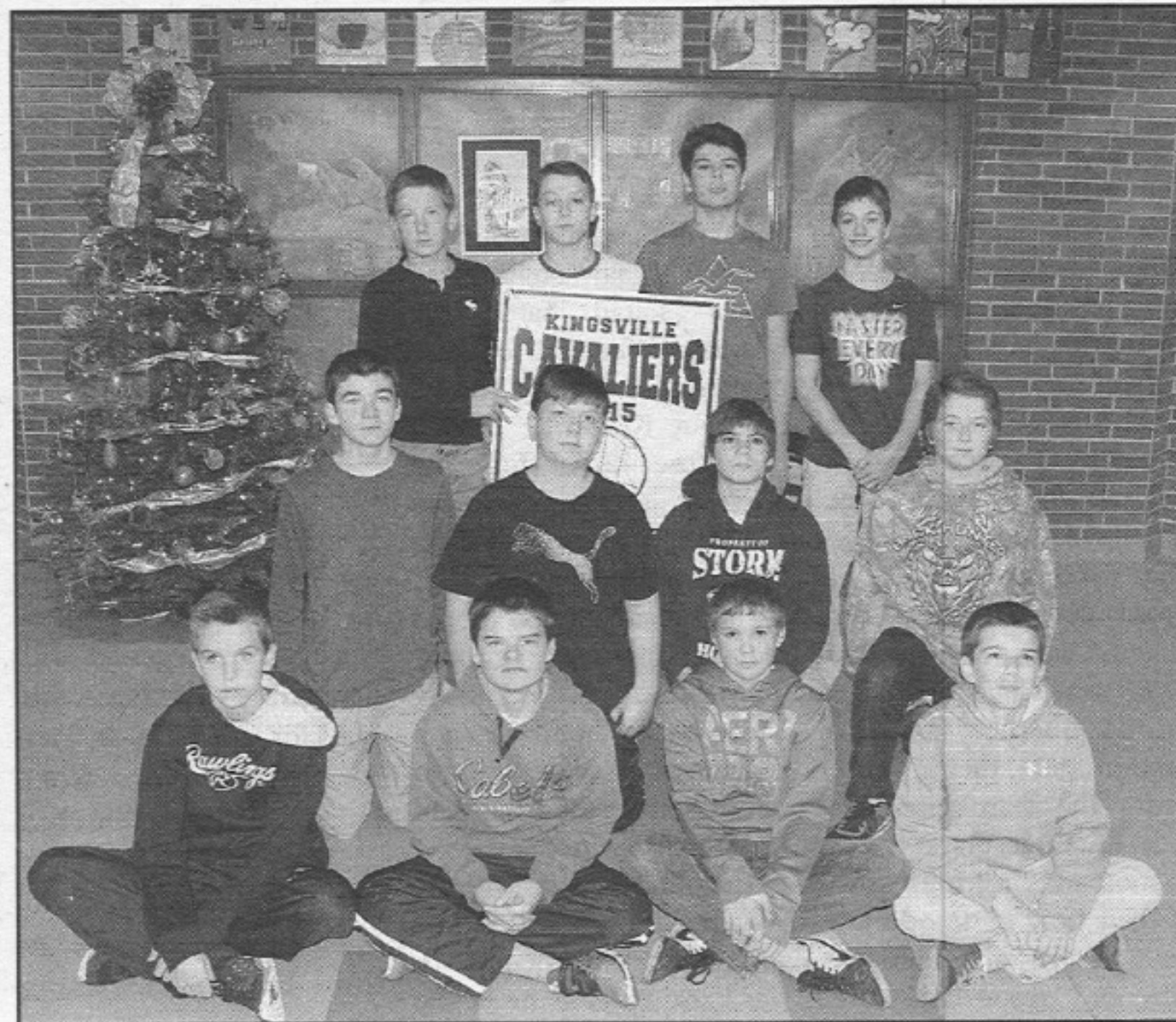


Sgt. Andrew Moxley, left, and Sgt. Matt D'Asti of the Windsor Police Service are joined by Amy Ryan from CG Pearson Bus Lines Ltd. outside St. James Catholic Elementary School after the bus was filled with donated toys for Santa's School Bus for Kids, Friday. *DAX MELMER/THE WINDSOR STAR*

St. John de Brebeuf soccer teams bring home pennants



The St. John de Brebeuf Lady Eagles won two volleyball titles this past season. They were winners at both the KDHS and Cardinal Carter Feeder School tournaments. Pictured above, team members include (back row, left to right) Sonnie Stomp, Grace Johnson, Emily Bacon, Kiana Dobson, Emily Leili, Chelsea Brush, (front row) Sara Legg, Melanie Gosselin, Sierra Algra, Lauren Lafleur and Kayla DiMenna.



The St. John de Brebeuf boys' volleyball team won the Kingsville District High School Feeder School volleyball tournament this year. Pictured above are members of the team including (back row, left to right) Kaden Brennan, Luca Quenneville, Tiago Balteiro, Matt Lafleur, (middle row) Clayton Stephens, Nicolas Vilardi, Colin Farias, Chad Stenger, (front row) Steven Debergh, Eryn Lewis, Colin Lefebvre and Nolan Stephens.

Photos by Steve I'Anson

Villanova Provides 43 Families with Christmas Gifts and Dinners

The St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School celebrated their Christmas can drive and 12th annual Adopt-a-Family program at their Advent Mass this past Tuesday, December 8.

This year, the students were able to provide 43 less-fortunate families with clothing, gifts and Christmas dinners.

During the month of November, the school came together to collect over 6,200 cans of food to give to the Essex Area Food Bank, the Children's Aid Society, The Downtown Mission and The St. Vincent de Paul Society – Divine Mercy Food Bank

Each class in the school was given the chance to 'adopt a family' in mid-November. Each family had specific needs, and wants, and students were asked to donate ten dollars to help create the perfect Christmas day for these families.

Maggie Ducharme, the department head of special education at the school, said that many students even went above-and-beyond the expected dollar amount. She said that since she started the program 12 years ago, the school has been able to help more than 550 families.



Students pour into the mass, loaded with gifts for unfortunate families. It was up to each student to provide gifts for their "adopted" family, as part of their commitment to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



Tables upon tables were lined up with gifts of all sorts: wagons, hockey sticks, and the latest in toy trends. The students participated whole-heartedly in their annual event, said Maggie Ducharme, the department head of the special education.

Rachel Rode, a grade 12 student at Villanova Catholic High School, said that she is amazed every year at the generosity she sees at this time.

helped, and went above and beyond. They didn't just get what the family needed, but also bought toys and other gifts," said Rode.

"Students even had an option to not be a part of the program, but everyone