

February 28, 2014

STUDENTS SHARE THOUGHTS ON THE MEANING OF HOME AND PRESENT CHEQUE TO HABITAT FOR HUMINTY

Following a runner-up designation in a national competition, the Grade 6 class from Robert Southey School presented Habitat for Humanity with a cheque for \$5,000 today.

The Meaning of Home contest, hosted by Genworth Canada, asked students to submit essays on what “home means” to them. For each submission, Genworth donates five dollars to Habitat for Humanity. Students who win are then given the opportunity to direct a donation to a Habitat for Humanity build of their choice, and a pizza party.

Teacher Andrew Longstaff saw the contest as an opportunity to teach students about identity and also exercise their writing skills. The Grade 6 class worked together on their personal “meaning of home” and then worked collaboratively to combine the ideas into a final essay and song. Longstaff’s class was a runner-up, chosen from more than 7,000 submissions nation-wide.

“I am proud of the class for looking outside of their own lives at the problems that are faced in the world. It was an exciting learning experience for them to see that they could make a difference by submitting work and being responsible for small five dollar contributions,” said Longstaff. “Seeing how their contributions could grow was a clear example of how every little bit counts. We’re so pleased to be making this donation and we thank Genworth Canada for the opportunity to contribute to this local build in our school division.”

Students presented a cheque to Habitat for Humanity COO Rob Gartner at the site of the Habitat for Humanity build in Fort Qu’Appelle.

“It’s rewarding to know that The Meaning of Home contest inspires children, teachers and parents in Saskatchewan to reflect on what home means to them. This contest is helping us raise awareness while focusing on the importance of having a safe place to call home.” said Rob Gartner, Chief Operating Officer of Habitat for Humanity Regina, Thank you to Mr. Longstaff, his students at Robert Southey School and the Prairie Valley School Division for taking part in this contest. Your winning submission will help another family break the cycle of poverty through homeownership”

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The site chosen to receive the donation is the first ever rural home build of its kind. A partnership with the Regina District Industry Education Council, Regina Trades and Skills, Habitat for Humanity, and Prairie Valley School Division, the home is being built by Prairie Valley students who are enrolled in the Trades and Skills Construction Apprenticeship Program and will earn high school credits for their work on the home build.

Robert Southey School is one of 38 schools in the Prairie Valley School Division, serving 350 students in Grades K to 12. Southey is located 60 kilometres from Regina on Highway 6. Robert Southey School prides itself on its large extra-curricular offerings, a kind and caring environment, a well-rounded academic and fine arts program, and the Screaming Eagles athletic teams.

Prairie Valley School Division serves approximately 8,100 students in 38 schools throughout southeast Saskatchewan. In support of the vision "Leadership in Learning and Life", the Division strives to ensure a high-quality education that provides students with the tools to reach and exceed their potential.

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