

## STUDENTS WORKING TO BE TOP 'MATHLETE'



**BLACKSTOCK** — Cartwright Central Public School students, from left, Alex Lalonde, Taylor Cochran, Nichelle Wright, a Grade 7 coach, Kara Cook and Marshall Wray were some of the Grades 4 to 6 students who recently participated in 'Mathletes', a program developed by Janice Edwards-Kennedy of Port Perry. Teams of students, assisted by a coach, worked together to solve math challenges using tangrams, algebraic codes, pentominoes and word problems.

PORT PERRY STAR / WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

# Cartwright High School show off fresh new look

*Blackstock institution to give community a glimpse at new-look facility on Thursday as repairs from last March's fire now complete*

BY CHRIS HALL  
chall@durhamregion.com

**BLACKSTOCK** — Cartwright High School will swing its doors open to the public Thursday night when the well-known, and recently revamped, educational facility hosts a community open house.

Acknowledging members of the public may be a tad curious about the recent forced changes made to the Old Scugog Road school after a fire last March, top education officials have opted to host a open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 17.

Such an effort, explains school principal Kyeong Cho, will allow those interested to take a peek at changes and refurbishments made necessary after the March 24 blaze. As well, it will also give school officials an opportunity to showcase the facility's new equipment garnered over the last few years.

"We're holding an open house to

invite any residents in Scugog who are interested in the changes made to the building," says Ms. Cho.

While cleaning up after last March's blaze has "been a long haul," the principal sounds enthusiastic to be able to show off the tiny school to the community.

Classes resumed as usual in September when the new school year rolled around, however officials "have been busy organizing and reorganizing and we thought some of the residents might be curious how the school is," says Ms. Cho.

The fire occurred in the early morning hours of March 24 after vandals set fire to recycling bins located adjacent to the school. Scugog fire officials have said that heat from the bins sparked a fire inside the building itself.

Days later, on March 29, Durham police arrested two 16-year-old boys, one from Nestleton and the other from Caesarea, and charged them with arson causing damage. Neither of the accused, said police, were students at CHS.

The bulk of the repairs to the school include cleaning and repainting, as well as the replacement of woodwork. The basement has been repaired and a new floor has been installed; the lockers now have a fresh coat of paint; and the main

office, which sustained the bulk of the fire damage, has been completely reconstructed.

On top of those renovations, school officials are also hoping to show off their new computer labs and audio-visual equipment.

"There have been a lot of changes in the last five years, especially last year," says Ms. Cho. "It's been cleaned up from top to bottom."

Damage to the school building is estimated at about \$700,000, a figure Ms. Cho says continues to rise as repair bills come in.

However, despite concerns in the community in the aftermath of the blaze, she says the future of the school never really was in doubt.

"The (Durham District School Board) was very strong in its support (to) keep Cartwright open," says Ms. Cho. "They had given us 100 per cent support to keep it open."

As for the school's refreshed look, the principal notes that she's quite pleased with the makeover, a sentiment she's sure the public will share.

"I think it's looking really good and I think some of the residents will be really proud of how it looks now," she says.

Cartwright High School is located at 14220 Old Scugog Rd.