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PLEASE DONATE TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Georgetown Bread Basket 873-3368 and Acton Foodshare 853-0457 will be accepting donations for the needs of our community. If you still are not sure where you can help contact any of our local churches and they can direct you further.

This message brought to you by these members of our caring community.



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It is the time of year for sharing and caring. As you celebrate the season with family and friends it will add to your joy knowing that you have contributed for those less fortunate than you.

The Independent & Free Press

Risk Watch pilot program teaches injury prevention tips

The Risk Watch program, currently being offered at St. Francis of Assisi School, provides children with the skills and knowledge they need to recognize and avoid risks and prevent injuries.

The program, offered to St. Francis of Assisi students on a four-month pilot basis, teaches students in every grade about motor vehicle safety, fire and burn prevention, choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention, poisoning prevention, falls prevention, firearms injury prevention, bike and pedestrian safety and water safety.

Statistics show that injuries are the number one health risk for children 14 years and under.

Risk Watch champion for Halton Hills Brian Ellsworth of the Halton Hills Fire Department said the program has been designed so it can be incorporated into a teacher's daily lesson plan. The Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Safety Council provided free curriculum and resources for the pilot program.

The Risk Watch approach to education combines teaching and imagination to help children promote their own personal safety and safety of others.

They learn about injury prevention than have the opportunity to apply that knowledge in practice situations.

Ellsworth said each grade in the school will be taught information in each area suited to their learning ability.

"Every year they are taught a little bit more," said Ellsworth, who is a member of the Halton Hills Injury Prevention Committee's Risk Watch

Coalition, a partnership of community safety advocates from Halton Hills, which supports the Risk Watch program.

Since September Risk Watch coalition partners have visited St. Francis to help reinforce the classroom lessons. Staff from Laidlaw Transit Ltd. have been at the school to talk about bus safety, Halton Regional Police officers were in to



BRIAN ELLSWORTH

discuss firearms injury prevention, the police and Halton Region Health Department held a bike helmet fitting clinic, and Halton Hills firefighters discussed fire and burn prevention with the students.

Ellsworth said next month the students will be tested on the information they have been taught and those results will be compared with testing done at the start of the program.

If the program proves successful Ellsworth said next year they hope to expand it to all Catholic elementary schools in town, one public school, Georgetown District Christian School and Sacre Coeur. The ultimate goal is to offer the program at all Halton Hills schools.

Funding for the program, \$3,000 to \$4,000 per school, will come from citizens and community partners such as: Ray Johnson & Associates Inc., Halton Credit Union, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Williamson Industries, Grant Baker's Silver Creek Service Centre in co-operation with Suny's Cango, Georgetown Lions and Georgetown Optimists.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GEORGETOWN - 1999

Applications for the Christmas Food Hamper and the Christmas Toy Program will be accepted at The Salvation Army
 271 Mountainview Road South
 On the following dates & times:

Wednesday, December 1 9 a.m. - noon
 Thursday, December 2 9 a.m. - noon
 Friday, December 3 9 a.m. - noon

Wednesday, December 8 9 a.m. - noon
 Thursday, December 9 9 a.m. - noon
 Friday, December 10 9 a.m. - noon

Wednesday, December 15 9 a.m. - noon
 Thursday, December 16 9 a.m. - noon
 Friday, December 17 9 a.m. - noon
 Saturday, December 18 9 a.m. - noon

The deadline for applications is Saturday, December 18th

Applications must be completed in person. Applicants are requested to bring their most recent cheque stub from Employment, UIC, FBA, Welfare, etc.



Sponsored By
 The Georgetown Lioness (The Good Neighbours Club)
 The Georgetown Kinsmen Club
 The Salvation Army Georgetown Community Church
 877-1374

