



LIGHT UP CANADA: Students at MSB participated in a program, Light Up Canada, last week with a series of workshops. - Submitted photo

Program encourages students to value 'selves and others

During the week of October 23 – 27, grade seven and eight students from McKenzie-Smith Bennett school (MSB) participated in a program intended to learn to value themselves and others.

Lisa Sanchez and Gloria Garvey, program designers and instructors, led the students through a series of three workshops to help them understand how to bring light and hope into their personal world and into practice at MSB. Sanchez and Garvey are teachers who originally designed Light Up Canada as a values based curriculum for the Durham Board of Education. Their powerful positive message has been delivered to numerous schools in Durham, the United

States, Hawaii, and Argentina.

MSB is the first Canadian school outside of Durham to participate in this program. Through games, drama, videos and personal stories students gained insight into their own personal worth and the worth of others. Messages of kindness, tolerance, hope and peace were shared.

MSB is grateful for the gifts shared with the school by Sanchez and Garvey and to Child and Youth Worker, Wilma Lambers who helped bring Light Up Canada to MSB. Thanks also to the Acton church which supported this effort.

Light Up Canada will return to MSB for a second session later this year.

Need people to tend kettles

By Frances Niblock

The Acton Corps of the Salvation Army is urgently looking for volunteers to man its traditional holiday kettles, the clear plastic balls that hang from metal stands in busy areas to collect donations for the less fortunate.

Acton Corp kettle program co-organizer Reg Marsh is worried they may not get enough people to fill all of the shifts needed to raise \$25,000, up \$1,000 from last year, and finding volunteers is a repeat problem.

Marsh said he's disappointed they didn't get any volunteers after sending out letters to Acton groups, churches, service clubs and organizations this year, asking for help.

"That's sad, I believe, because we've got to realize that this money is kept in the community and it's to help, maybe your child, or someone else's child, or someone who needs rent or to pay bills – it's not just Christmas money, it's for a 12-month period," Marsh said.

The Acton Corps will set up the kettles, beginning November 24 at Sobeys, and will

be at Sobeys and Giant Tiger on November 25 and 26. On December 1, they will add a kettle at the liquor store and, if they get enough volunteers, will man the three kettle locations daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., until Christmas.

Marsh said they are flexible with the shifts, many which will be filled by Acton Corps members.

"Maybe a group could take a day and break it up. We check on the kettle workers every hour. We bring them coffee and give them breaks and they have

two cell phone numbers if the need arises," Marsh said, adding it would be good for high school students who need to accumulate their community hours.

The Salvation Army's kettle program began in 1891 in San Francisco when an Army Captain collected money in a pot for a free Christmas dinner for the needy at a ferry landing. The idea spread through the U.S., Canada and around the world.

Call Marsh at 519-853-0113 to volunteer with this year's kettle campaign.

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