

Sowing the seeds of environmental consciousness

Lumen Christi holds its first Eco Fair

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Walking through the front doors of Lumen Christi Elementary Catholic School on a recent Thursday, a wave of excitement washes over the lobby.

The anticipation is palpable, as students wait for their turn at one of several unorthodox jump-ropes — fashioned from hundreds of plastic bags.

The brainchild of Grade 7 students Maria Andraous and Sophia Oliveira, it's the centerpiece of an afternoon that's part enjoyable, part education and all environmentally conscious.

"I think it's (plastic bag jump-ropes) a good idea," said fourth grader Lucas Taylor, while watching his school-mates get in a little exercise during the school's inaugural Eco Fair. "It's better than melting them (bags) down and making more pollution."

Spearheading the event, Lumen Christi Eco-Lead/Grade 4 teacher Kristen Boyd seemed more than

pleased as she surveyed the overall atmosphere of the various stations — each with a different focus and message.

"It's great that they're having fun, but learning is what's most important," she stressed. "Looking at all this enthusiasm... I'm verklempt. I can't think of another word to use. The kids put their hearts into this. The students are teaching the stu-

dents, and that's what it's all about." Among those especially eager to share details of the school's projects, Grade 6 student Alexis Fernandes spoke about creating seed bombs just the day before and how they'll be launched across the back field on Earth Day (April 21). "I've loved nature since I was young... going to visit my grandma and seeing all these animals

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