

Snow sculpture fun

Knights and castles at Harbour school

by Barb Skelton
Staff Writer

Tread carefully around the Victoria Harbour Public School yard. You may come across a huge green dragon hiding in the snow. It's the creation

of Linda Banks' grade 4-5 class. They are learning about medieval life.

The classroom is guarded by Sir Mordred, a stout knight in armor, lent by Paul Desroches of the Castle Village Shop on Balm Beach Road. The medieval political

system was no democracy. Kevin Quesnelle is tracing a pyramid of political power in the middle ages; his classmates, Christine Mackay and Carrie Sallows, are tracing a similar power route in the education system starting with the director of education. (And you-

know-who is at the bottom, Christine and Carrie, to name two.) Castles are appearing on the landscape in the school, some on the classroom computer. Another, in the library, is made of sugar cubes glued together with egg white and icing sugar - "Mr. Delaney calls it mor-

tar," Lindsay Todd reports. Paul Delaney is the school librarian.

Tim Patey explained why the castle has a turret: "To see if there's any enemies," he says.

Desroches has made a hobby of studying castles and he has invited the class to his shop to learn more.

The pupils are learning medieval craftsmanship, with a demonstration in stained glass from 79-year-old Ted Williams. "The kids were fascinated. They did some cutting of the glass," says Banks. They will try some of the life of the monks with calligraphy instruction.

The classes are tracing their own noble lines in heraldry.

A few sporting sorts will learn jousting from Wayne Richards, a special teacher from the Simcoe Board of Education.

The whole production will come together in a show and feast later in the year.

The class will dress in medieval costume, including court jesters, and they hope to put on a play from a story one of the pupils has written. Some will play the recorder and jousters will demonstrate their art.

A medieval feast will follow: stew made by the youngsters, eaten from wooden bowls, mulled cider to drink from their own handmade mugs, and bread pudding.

The young experts will end their study with a trip to the Royal Ontario Museum to see the exhibits of armor and musical instruments, and to take part in workshops.



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Brave knights

John Lidstone and Kevin Quesnelle stand guard with Sir Mordred - a medieval "visitor" who brought his weapons from the Castle Village Gift Shop to take part in a study of medieval life at Victoria Harbour Public School.

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