

Romans for a day

By BRENDA LITTLE
GOODWOOD — Walking into teacher Kathy Wasylenky's Grade five and six class, Thursday, was like taking a giant step back in history.

For an entire day, Mrs. Wasylenky and her students brought ancient Rome back to life. Even Julius Caesar would have felt at home in her room at Goodwood Public School.

Clad in togas, laurel wreaths and Roman sandals, the children participated in educational activities and games that originated in the ancient Roman civilization. The highlight of the day was a Roman feast fit for a king.

The children sat fidgeting with their togas as two classmates brought in food on large platters. As the repast was laid out on a table at the back of the class, they quickly lined up to taste the Roman delicacies.

They started with the Caesar Salad, worked their way through the ham, chicken and lamb dishes, and the vegetables and dip. They finished the feast with an assortment of desserts including

fresh fruit (grapes and apples sliced with dates pinned with toothpicks), Cona all Florentina (a crunchy sweet treat) and cheese cake.

The food was prepared by the students and their parents. Each child was asked to bring one dish.

Following Roman tradition, the feasters were entertained by jugglers, musicians and mime acts courtesy of their classmates.

The feast and the entertainment were the most popular events of the day.

"The thing I like most about Roman Day is the food and the jugglers," said Andrea Hathaway.

As she stands pulling at her light pink toga, her bracelets jingling as they strike one another, she smiles and adds, "The only thing I didn't like about today was this morning when I had to do my hair up."

Andrea, with her fancy hairdo and rouged cheeks was Capurnia, one of the main characters in the classroom play about the death of Caesar.

The play, performed by students, was enjoyed by the rest of

the class and by several parents that dropped in to visit.

"The whole day was an outstanding success," said Kathy. "It's the culmination of the children's studies on Rome. They look forward to it from the beginning."

The Roman Day tradition was started three years ago when Kathy first arrived at the school.

"I thought it would be a fun way for the children to learn more about the daily life of Rome," she explained. "Today they learned about how the Roman school system works, how Romans eat and what they eat."

To encourage participation, Kathy organized a costume contest. The students sporting the two best outfits were given ribbons.

This year's winners were Becki Farquharson and Mark Fine. Becki wore a dazzling purple toga with numerous sparkling chains wrapped around. The outfit was complimented by gold and silver bracelets and dangling earrings. Mark wore a traditional white toga held together with ropes and pins.



Romans for a day, three students of Goodwood Public School pose in native dress. They are: Front Row (left to right)—Jessica Dennis, Becki Farquharson and Vanessa Beach. Rear Row (left to right)—Mark Fine, Karl Winterstein and Peter Frijio. —Brenda Little

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