

Young leaders

School should be fun, students say

By DENISE McDONALD
 "You have to try as hard as you can to make school fun for everyone."

Such is the opinion of Chris Bellerby and Debbie Sansom, co-chairpersons of Ballantrae Public School's Student Council.

"You also have to make sure everything is kept well organized and remember to only think of what the students want and not what you would want," they said.

According to both students, they decided to run for the male and female chairperson seats after serving two years on the council body.

"I wanted to be in charge of most activities, especially the banking and fundraising," said Debbie. "I thought it would be a fun experience."

"Because I'm going on the Quebec trip, I thought it would be neat to organize the fundraising," added Chris. "It's also a lot easier to get your opinions across when you're in charge. That way if you have a good idea, you can stick to it."

The remaining body of the executive was chosen from the school's four different sections, with each group represented by its own color.

Supporting Chris and Debbie are: Karen Gibson, Jason Wallace, Ryo Hoshino, Sarah Cliff, David Butcher, Greg Spytz, Rhonda Tatone, Andrea Wilson, Jeff Taber, Greg Crozier, Arlene D'Arcy, Susan Shader, Tracey Williams, and Matt Mcnott.

As well, Mr. Johnstone helps the council with financing and budgeting, while Mr. Gimple supervises meetings during the lunch hour.

"The meetings mainly serve as a time where we can all get together and discuss what activities we'd like to hold and what we'd like to see happen at the school," said Debbie.

Along with several dances in the planning stages at Ballantrae this year, Debbie and Chris have been busy organizing fundraisers for the Grade 7 trip to Ottawa and Grade 8 trip to Quebec City in June, as well as offering pizza days for students every other Friday.

"We go around to each classroom during the week and take orders and collect money for the pizza," said Chris. "Then we all deliver it on the Friday."

"We also have a foster child in Africa we write letters to and send money for every six weeks," added Debbie. "She's only eight years old but she sends us letters every now and then and lets us know how she's doing."

While not being able to claim credit for the idea, Chris and Debbie also chose to continue the school's three-year tradition of providing points to all students receiving awards or participating in activities throughout the year. All points are then tabulated for each color team, with the highest total receiving a trophy at the end.

"All the teachers thought it was a good idea to continue with it," said Debbie. "It makes the stu-

dents feel they're part of something and allows them to get together with other people and make new friends."

And while they claim they've had a few difficulties to date, including a mix-up with a money order and in pizza delivery, they said they're generally well received by students.

"Our overall goal is to raise as much money as we can and supply students with extra curricular activities," continued Debbie. "All the money goes towards anything the kids want."



Chris Bellerby and Debbie Sansom are working hard to raise money as they co-chair the Student Council at Ballantrae Public School. — Denise McDonald

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