

ST 12 Students learn value of friendship at picnic

(From page 18)
was an air of great excitement in the classroom.

The project also proved an excellent means of encouraging children not only to write letters, but to enjoy the process.

Strides

"We saw some tremendous strides being taken by kids who might not otherwise have taken on the challenge of writing to someone else."

By the time June 2 arrived, the children were eager to meet their penpals and show them around the school.

Any trepidation Wells may have felt about the success of the venture were soon dispelled, as the children greeted each other and set about the business of the day with gusto and enthusiasm.

The morning was spent in the classroom, with volunteer parents overseeing various activities.

"We had lots of parent volunteers, about 14 from both schools," Wells said.

Big lunch

"We had a big lunch outside and a huge cake with two Canadian flags and Canada 125 on it." Students, teachers and parents sang happy birthday and the magnificent cake, made by Leanne Sooley, was cut and distributed.

Teaching assistant Sandy Jeaps and a friend dressed up as clowns and gave out Canada 125 buttons and balloons.

The afternoon was spent in a flurry of outdoor activities which included a scavenger hunt and various games.

"One mom from Tom Longboat said she thought that all the children here would be living on farms," Wells said.

"In fact, none of my Kindergarten children live on a farm."

The visitors were impressed with the setting and the area around the school, she said.

Positive

"As far as my children were concerned, their reactions were absolutely positive and they really enjoyed their pen-

pals, when they could catch up with them.

Support from parents and the administration of both schools was excellent, concluded a delighted, if somewhat exhausted, Wells.

"It just couldn't have gone any better."

David Brooke and Jonathan Moore of Ballantrae Public School meet pen pal Tavar Knott from Tom Longboat Public School in Scarborough to share lunch and foster multicultural friendships as part of Canada's 125th birthday celebrations.



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