

Reesor Park welcomes new library



Alanna Kirchner, left, and Ashley McClelland in the renovated library.

BY MATT KIRCHNER
Citizen on Assignment

On Monday, Nov. 8, the library at Reesor Park Public School re-opened to students.

The library was closed for renovations and updates like new books, new shelving, carpeting, computers and much more. The new librarian, Maret Kapp, and parent volunteers have been working hard to get everything complete.

The school just turned 26 years old and the library was old and out of date.

The school's parent/teacher group has worked on the library in several stages because the cost is great. More than \$17,000 was contributed to the library.

There are still more stages to be done, hopefully in the next two to four years.

The grand re-opening was celebrated with a ribbon cutting and each student received a bookmark to mark the occasion.

Matt Kirchner is a Grade 5 student at Reesor Park Public School.



Candace McKean and Carlye Wild, in front, and Patrick Raymer, Kyle Fockler and Kyle Ryan, in back, represent classes with high donations.

Goodwill at Glad Park

BY SUSAN STAPLEY
Citizen on Assignment

"Wow, I'd love to get one of those Beanie Babies for Christmas!"

"I think that hockey game is cool!"

"That make-up kit rocks!"

Kids preparing their Christmas wish lists while window shopping at the mall? No.

These were just some of the enthusiastic reactions from the students of Glad Park Public School as they sorted and boxed piles of new toys, non-perishable food items, cosmetics and new clothing recently.

Students and staff from junior kindergarten through Grade 8 collected the items in support of the Salvation Army's Christmas Cheer Program.

The school's food and toy drive was taken on by the student council as part of its community outreach to help those less fortunate in the community during the holiday season. Piles of Berenstein Bears, Barbie dolls and bow tie noodles took over each classroom as the school was transformed into a toy and food depot.

"It was unbelievable to see this kind of outpouring of generosity from the community," said Glad Park principal Walter Chewchuk. "I know the Stouffville community has a reputation for helping those in need, but this went far beyond anyone's imagination."

When the final tally was in, 348 toys and 893 food items had been collected. The resource room designated as the holding tank for the collection was filled to halfway up the walls with no floor space showing.

While many of the toys were of the modest variety, the assortment included an air hockey table game, a porcelain-faced doll that was over two feet in height and several gigantic stuffed animals.

Contemporary best-selling CDs and books, colouring and craft kits, scented oils and bath products for women were also in evidence. Hand-crafted items included scarves and mittens to help ward off winter's chill.

Food items ranged from baby food and care products right through cake-making and cookie design kits.

Wrapping paper, bows, ribbons and Christmas cards were also included.

"The sheer variety of items and creativity of those who contributed was so impressive," said Kathryn Lewis, a Glad Park teacher and student council adviser.

Designed as a competition, the winning class was promised a movie and popcorn event. But with the entire student body getting caught up in the excitement, it was decided all students should share the prize.

Graphs were kept by each class with the students plotting their progress daily. The Grade 8 students in charge of sorting and boxing the outpouring faced the challenge of co-operative group problem solving.

Special runs had to be made to local grocery and drug stores in search of enough boxes to contain the bounty. In some cases, the slugging and carting of toy and food-laden boxes became part of the training routine for athletic events.

"This'll get me ready for the volleyball playoffs," said boys volleyball team member Nick West.

Susan Stapley is a Stouffville resident and teacher/student council adviser at Glad Park Public School.

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