



Elgin Avenue Public School

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Elgin Ave. School News



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January
2017

NOVEMBER WAS A BUSY MONTH!

During the month of November, students who demonstrated inclusiveness and cooperative behaviour were honoured with a certificate of recognition. These students were nominated by their teachers, for showing positive behaviour both inside and outside the classroom. A huge congratulations to the awarded students.



*The Character Trait for
December and January is
Compassion.*

During the month of December, staff and students at Elgin have generously donated non-perishable food items to the caring cupboard. They have also been selling popcorn for \$2 a bag, with all the proceeds (\$73) going towards the Simcoe Caring Cupboard. Popcorn sales will continue in the new year.



On December 7th, Grade 6-8 students had a very special and important presentation from Jeff and Zach from Scales Nature Park on the topic of "Reptiles at Risk." Students enjoyed a presentation and then afterwards were able to hold a variety of snakes, and view the Blandings Turtle.

We learned that snakes are cold-blooded, also known as, Exothermic and take on the temperature of the environment. They have scales and when touched, feel dry and smooth like your fingernails. Snakes have a very keen sense of smell and can smell better than dogs. They use the forks of their tongues to get scent, which is then pulled back into their mouth. Depending on the fork that has the scent, snakes know the direction of their prey.

Quite a few species of snakes are "pretenders," one of which is known as the Milk Snake. They are most often found in barns because prey, like mice and insects can be easily found. When scared, the Milk Snake will shake its tail and pretend to be a rattlesnake, making people and other predators think it is dangerous.



The Hog-Nose snake also pretends to be dangerous, so it can avoid scary situations. They are professional actors and will flatten out their neck, lift off of the ground like a Cobra and hiss loudly to protect themselves. They will strike out around you, but if contact is made, will only head-butt you with their hog nose as they keep their mouth closed. As a last resort to protect themselves, they will roll over and play dead, throw up the food they have eaten over the last few days and poop while smearing it around themselves with their tail. All of these things are to deter predators from eating them. They are completely safe for us.

Finally, we learned about the Blandings Turtle. The markings of this turtle are a yellow chin and a high domed shell that looks like an old army helmet. This turtle has been upgraded to "endangered" as of Dec. 6th, 2016. The top reason is because humans have destroyed their habitats. This species likes to live in wetlands and will walk up to 5km to lay their eggs in the springtime. The other danger for this species is being hit by a car, as their shell is not strong enough to save them from the impact. There is a turtle hospital in Peterborough, where turtle shells can be patched up to help them survive.



To wrap up the afternoon, students were able to get up close with some of the different species by holding them or viewing them. We also learned ways that we as citizens can help protect and value our biodiversity within our own community. A big "Thank You" goes out to Scales Nature Park for the informative presentation and helping us understand the importance of caring for all species within our ecosystem.



IN MUSIC

The month of December was kicked off in style with a visit from the Junior and Concert Bands of Simcoe Composite School. The bands loaded their instruments into buses in order to bring an exciting and entertaining presentation of music to the students and staff at Elgin. Under the direction of guest conductor, Sara Van Hamme, the bands performed many holiday selections and played some of our favourite music from movies. We were excited to see so many former Eagles now playing in the SCS bands! Mrs. Chwastiak was very proud that our students demonstrated their knowledge of the instruments and we thank her for organizing this event.



IN SPORTS

Congratulations to the boys' volleyball team on their successes this season. All the boys improved on their individual skills and played well as a team – cheering each other on and making incredible 3- hit plays. Players included: Chadrick J, Ben M, DeAndre H, Brad B, Sihler B, Owen F, Lucas P and Riley H.



Congratulations to the girls' volleyball team during the tournament in Port Dover. The team came away with one win against Walsh and they had a very close match against Langton, losing by just 2 points. Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Auld were very proud of the girl's school spirit and hard work this season. Players included: Maggie S, Maddie B, Charlotte C, Alyssa T, Emma B, Emma F, Diana P, Sierra P, and Carley L.

This year Elgin hosted a Christmas Variety Show to showcase the many talents of our staff and students. Each classroom presented a song, dance, or play for their friends and family. They all worked very hard in their rooms and hoped you enjoyed the show. In addition to the Variety Show, there was also the annual Scholastic Book Fair and a French Café set up before the evening performance.



Also happening this month was the 2nd Annual Turkey Dinner. Back by popular demand, students had the pleasure of enjoying a delicious homemade Turkey Dinner with all the extras. We are extremely grateful to the

parents and volunteers who have played an integral role in the success of this event. Turkey Dinner Day was also "Fancy Shmancy" Day, where students dressed in their "Sunday" Best clothing.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you back on Monday, January 9th, 2017!

