

September 2013

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve.”
Martin Luther King Jr.

The start of something BIG – A Pilot Review

Project Connect’s goal is to support school by “preparing our students for a lifetime of success through respect, opportunity and innovation” Project Connect Volunteers have participated in the following events since our official launch January 1, 2013:

Reading Support:

- Chief Dan George (*French*)
- Dr. Roberta Bondar
- Harry Sayers
- Jackson
- John Maclure
- Matsqui
- Godson
- Sandy Hill

Bevan Lodge:

Volunteers took students from Abbotsford Middle School out to visit with the resident seniors who live at Bevan Lodge, who looked forward to the students coming and interacting with them.

Christmas Stores at Godson & Upper Sumas:

Project Connect and the School Board Office donated new or gently used items; on the day, we also joined in and helped students “purchase” and wrap these gifts.

- Godson does this so that students can “buy” their parent(s) or guardian(s) a Christmas gift.
- Upper Sumas uses this to raise funds to sponsor a family and contribute to the Food Bank. This year(2012) they raised \$867.and gave \$464.30 in gifts to the sponsored family, and donated \$403.30 to the Abbotsford Food Bank.

General School Support:

Supporting Abbotsford Middle, King Traditional, Jackson, and Terry Fox through various activities like teaching about plants, lunchtime “hanging” with students, evening performance events and costume design with the students.

2013 Gearbots Challenge:

Project Connect volunteers joined in, supporting Derek Dirom in judging this event that was held at the University of the Fraser Valley and entered by various schools throughout the district.

Greenhouse / Garden Projects:

Coming alongside Barrowtown and Eugene Reimer, volunteers helped build, maintain, water and grow these projects, in addition to interacting with the students.

Jump Rope for Heart

Centennial Park extended a “Jump Rope for Heart” invite to our volunteers who had a blast jumping rope with the kids.

Lego Lunch

King Traditional had one of our volunteers come in and set up, helping build lego creations and kid conversations.

Lunch Games

Centennial Park and Alexander had volunteers join in the games with students who are not able to go out for various reasons during the lunchtime.

Snowball Basketball Tournament

During this tournament held at Abbotsford Senior Secondary, one of our volunteers referees.

Visit <http://hr.sd34.bc.ca/volunteer> for more information, or contact us at project_connect@sd34.bc.ca

Sign up today and become part of something BIG!

Testimonials:

"It was so nice coming out to a school because in my position at the district I don't get to spend time with any students."
Shelly Senft, Finance

"Project Connect has widened my sense of purpose and perspective from task oriented to people and student centered. Having never worked in a school, I never felt the personal connection to students, teachers and other district employees before. I now have a sense of belonging to the bigger picture. It has really taken me out of my comfort zone and grown me as a person."
Sharon Robinson, Human Resources

"What can I say, it's hockey (!!) and it was fun with the kids!" **Shane Woodruff, Journeyman Electrician, Facilities**

"I really enjoy talking to the kids. They really do say the funniest (craziest) things!"
Tom Louie, Director – Facilities & Transportation

"What stands out for me was their excited anticipating faces greeting me with, "Hello Mr. Bob", when I would arrive. We all benefited from the experience."
Bob Beukers, Journeyman Electrician - Facilities

"It opened my eyes to the fact that children still need to be cared for and loved and shown attention."
Leo Bilodeau, Journeyman Plumber - Facilities

A Special Thanks to all our Project Connect Participants 2012/13:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Susan Antak | Barb Ashdown |
| Linda Baglot | Bob Beukers |
| Laura Lee Billing | Leo Bilodeau |
| Paula Bryant | Denise Byle |
| Kristy Carlson | Elizabeth Cho-Frede |
| Derrin Demaer | Arlynn Eash |
| Lois Hiebert | Bev Horwood |
| Vivian Keys | Jeff Klassen |
| Judy Kumar | Tom Louie |
| Keith MacDonald | Rose Mann |
| Edwin Molendijk | Naomi Parker |
| Anja Reynolds | Sharon Robinson |
| Baljinder Sandhu | Christine Schulz |
| Jocelyne Seguin | Shelly Senft |
| Melissa Sigouin | Dave Stephen |
| Marguerite Stuart | Karla Stumpf |
| Edythe Tucker | Adrienne Velders |
| Helen Williams | Shane Woodruff |
| | Marnie Wright |



Lois Hiebert received a beautifully created "Thank you" card after reading with the students at Sandy Hill



Bob Beukers reading with students at Jackson



Barb Ashdown reading with a student at Matsqui



Susan Antak & Judy Kumar volunteer at Godson's Christmas Store



Tom Louie working with students at Centennial Park



Shelly Senft helps with Dr. Roberta Bondar Grade 5 girls reading group



Edwin Molendyck teaching Jackson's kids about plants, earth, and air



Linda Baglot, a volunteer judge at the 2013 BCIT Gearbots



Sharon Robinson reading with a student at Matsqui