

Who Is Nobody? - A District 7070 Partnership

A doll without a face builds character in young people!

"Nobody" is going to teach pupils in Trent Hills respect for themselves and respect for others. And we can thank the Rotary Club of Campbellford for that.

This club is funding the introduction of the Who Is Nobody literacy program into local classrooms. It's a remarkable tool that encourages young people to get involved in good causes at the same time that it nurtures their self-esteem and enhances their academic performance.

It all starts with a gingerbread-shaped doll that hasn't any features. Children

give it its character and in the process build up their own.

Nobody is the brainchild of Kelly Clark, an elementary school teacher currently on a one-year leave of absence from the Toronto District School Board. "You see so many kids who have so much potential and unique qualities (who) try so hard to be the same as other people," she says. "They're basing their worth on whether other people like them or if they're wearing the right clothes." Usually, it's the "bully figure" among them who serves as an inappropriate role model.

Typically each child in a classroom involved in the program is given No-

body to take home for a week. A student's manual offers directions on how the child can take up a project "to help other living things—people, animals or the environment." In doing this, the students get to add attachments to the doll that represent the community outreach project they have undertaken so that over the school year Nobody eventually becomes a Somebody who's helped others, with the good deeds being recorded in stories and pictures that are kept in a scrapbook.

If you are interested in bringing the program to your area or wish to learn more about it, visit www.whoisnobody.com

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