

Local schools learn how to turn Nobody into a Somebody

BY THERESA ROACH
KEMPTVILLE ADVANCE

Two local classes in the Upper Canada District School Board (UDSB) found out this year when they took in a special

character-education project. The Grade 3/4 class at South Branch Elementary School, in Kemptville,

How do you turn Nobody into a Somebody?



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The Grade 3/4 class at South Branch Elementary School participated in the *Who Is Nobody?* project for this academic school year. The class had fun helping both local and national organizations with donations of time, funds or items.



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Students in the Grade 5 class at Centennial 67 Public School have spent the past school year working on the *Who is Nobody?* project.

and the Grade 5 class at Centennial 67 School, in Spencerville, had to choose either a person, animal or the environment to help.

The students took a doll called Nobody home for a week, during which time

they had to make Nobody a Somebody by helping someone or something in need. They were to write a story about what they did as well as draw a picture and add a three-dimensional object to the doll.

The Grade 3/4 class raised funds for Camp Banting, cut their hair for cancer wigs, donated to the House of Lazarus, helped Big Sky Ranch Animal Sanctuary, helped out at Bayfield Manor and helped the Salvation Army.

Each student was sent home with Nobody and a disposable camera to take a photo of themselves helping out with Nobody.

This class started their project in October when two volunteers from Nepal talked to the students, whose class project raised funds \$576 for Child Haven. The money was used to buy books, in their name, for children in Nepal. The students were hooked.

"This was something so special for the kids. We really talked a lot about character education and had a lot of fun with it," said teacher Pat Lynch.

"I thought this was a terrific program and I think the parents liked it too. It was homework, but for a good cause. The goal was to teach compassion and caring for the environment, people and animals."

Some of the organizations helped by Louise Marcell-Irving's Grade 5 class were Family and Children Services in

Brockville with a snow-suit drive, the Humane Society, CHEO, the Sick Kids Foundation and the Adam Harlow Fellowship Fund.

Some of them also helped their neighbours by shovelling snow or walking their dogs and feeding animals in the winter.

Nobody went home with the first student in this class of 25 in November.

Each class puts together a scrapbook with each student getting two pages. The book is sent home with each child at the end of the project.

"I was really worried that the kids would have a hard time coming up with ideas. They really amazed me with the ideas they came up with and the responsibility they accepted in doing so. There was a wide range of them and they made me very proud. They were looking forward to taking Nobody home," said Marcell-Irving.

The project is sponsored by local Rotary Clubs and each teacher had to take a training course before beginning it.

Lynch said she took the course with 15 other teachers and they agreed to meet up after it was over to compare notes.

This program, which ended here in May, is now available in five provinces across Canada and Nunavut and has recently been translated into French.

The kits were matched through the UCDSB.

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