



TOUCHSTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Greetings from Touchstone

Touchstone Community School
Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 2

December is here, and for the students at Touchstone Community School, this meant a month full of learning about the world around them. Students have been busy participating in wonderful projects and lessons that have taught them about different countries, cultures, religions and people.

This issue of our newsletter is full of information and pictures showing just some of the learning and fun that has been happening this month. From our first ever float in the KV Santa Claus Parade, to preparations for and pictures from International Night, this issue will once again remind us all just how hands-on and exciting learning at Touchstone truly is!

Important Dates December 2008

- ☉ December 12: International Night
- ☉ December 16: Last day before winter break
- ☉ December 17/18: Professional Development Days

The KV Santa Claus Parade

Monthly Themes for December

Red: International Studies

Blue: World Religions

Green: India/Ancient China

Orange: International Studies

Purple: Canadian History: War of 1812, Confederation, CPR



Inside this issue:

The Touchstone Special Events Committee was busy this fall putting together a float for the KV Santa Clause Parade held on November 22nd.

With the help of parents, teachers, students and staff, the committee was able to create a wonderful evening for all who participated!

The Touchstone (award winning!) float had an international theme complete with flags from around the world flying high above the students.

The students themselves were dressed in International Night costumes and sang songs that were part of our school's International Night celebration on December 12th.

A huge thank you to all who participated in the parade this year. All of your hard work helped to make it a memorable evening for all!



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A safe, happy and joyous holiday season to you and your family from everyone at Touchstone Community School

International Night

Music News from Ms. Dayna

In preparation for International Night, music classes have been busy. This year we featured an array of talent for the audience that included songs, tin whistles, warriors, Irish whistlers, and dances from Israel, and Eastern Europe! The entire school joined in for breathtaking songs in both English and French. It was wonderful seeing everyone at International Night enjoying all of the students' hard work!

What Is International Night?

From students past and present

What Is International Night?

"The day when everyone celebrates the countries of the world!" (Cameron 8)

"It's a time when you study a country and learn things about different countries" (Mira 8)

What do you like most about International Night?

"The songs and dances" (Daniel 6)

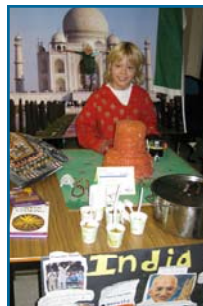
"Trying the different foods, telling about my country and singing" (Isabella 6)

What is the most interesting thing you have learned at International Night?

"The Mexican Hat Dance. Seriously. It doesn't get much better than that!" (Starling 14 TCS Grad)

"Where places are on the map of China" (Atticus 7)

Photos from International Night December 2008



World Flags



ENGLAND

Miriam Age 7



CHINA

Atticus Age 7



NEW ZEALAND

Elliot Age 7

Making Models



The Red Class constructing their models



Becca, age 7, paints her Neuschwanstein Castle



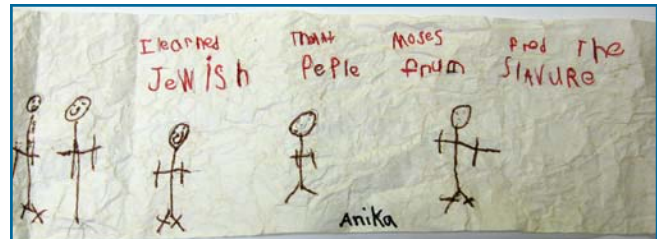
Danielle, age 6, creating a Jamaican waterfall

False Face Society



The Orange Class studied First Nations Cultures with a visitor from a NB First Nations community

Learning about Judaism



Anika, age 5, created this Ancient Scroll. "I learned that Moses freed the Jewish people from slavery"



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Please email any comments or ideas to
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"Imagine all the people living life in peace.
You may say I'm a dreamer,
but I'm not the only one.
I hope someday you'll join us,
and the world will be as one."
-- John Lennon

Pre-K to Grade
5 are in the
following order
Red
Blue
Green
Orange
Purple



The Teachers' Trip to England!

In October, the five full-time teachers took the professional development trip of a lifetime to England! Here are just a few comments and photos to highlight this incredible journey!

What one word would you use to describe your trip to England?

Hands-On! Breathtaking! Fascinating! Life Changing!



What were the benefits to you as a staff?

"I think the best part of the trip was the time we spent together. It was invaluable"

"We learned so much. We laughed even more. We became family."

"If we can survive a week of being wet, cold, and over-tired without any confrontations, we can get through anything together."

"Traveling is always a bonding experience. We shared, laughed and learned together. We grew stronger as a staff team"

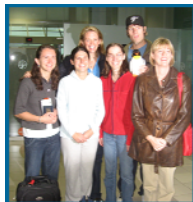
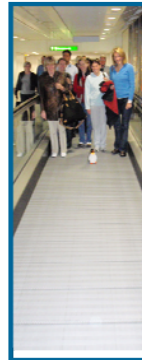
What were you most excited to share with your students?

"I could not wait to tell them about the Tower of London, the Globe Theatre, and Stone Henge"

"Photos of the mosaics I took in the Chedworth Roman Villa"

"Our time in Salisbury: Climbing the tallest spire in GB; seeing a 300 year old replica of an almost 700 year old man-powered medieval crane used to build the Cathedral; eating in a haunted pub"

"The Roman Villa. I can't wait to share this with them when I teach them Roman History."



Any other comments?

"We are so lucky to work for a school like Touchstone that values their teachers and wants not only what is best for the students but also their teachers. It is funny to look back and see how Touchstone has educated me along with all of the kids that enter our door."

"It was the trip of a lifetime!"

"It was a great opportunity for me to learn how to travel. Jeff, Sophie, and Tasha are expert travelers and I learned a lot from their organization and open minds".

"There is too much to sum up in only a sentence or two! What I learned has already enriched my classroom teaching in so many ways, and I know I will continue to draw on those experiences in the months to come."