

Sharing Gifts Between Parish and School

... Eileen Eliasson

St. Ignatius School welcomed seven new members to its school community last week. They are the older adults participating in our new, intergenerational, *SHARING GIFTS* project. We first met our new friends, senior parishioners from St. Ignatius Parish, on Wednesday, December 9, in the grade one classroom.

The theme for our first meeting was *School Days*. After introductions, the grade one students and their new friends easily entered into lively

conversations about school, then and now. The children immediately felt comfortable in the company of their warm and gentle guests. The adults shared authentic stories about one-room school houses and baseball-playing nuns in full habit. Some conversations wandered to talk of fashionable ladies hats of the 1940s, while others were about hockey legends, Darryl Sittler and Rocket Richard. History doesn't get more interactive than that!

After talking for a while, the grade one students conducted guided

tours of their classroom, showing the story corner, the activity centre, and especially, our new SMART board. They also enjoyed the rare opportunity to ring their teacher's desk bell, for demonstration purposes only, I'm sure.

Our next get-together will be in late January or early February. We are thinking of having fun with a *Parlour Games* theme. It was such a joy to spend our afternoon with these lovely friends. We are looking forward to seeing them again, soon.



Please join us in wishing good-bye and good luck to Miss Senez (covering the last four months of Mrs. Sine's maternity leave) and Monsieur Philippe Mostert-Bellemar (guest from Québec). Our prayers and best wishes are with them in their future endeavours.

... FROM THE ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL STAFF

Shine a Light for Peace: Reflecting on Remembrance Day

... Connie Taylor

It has been over a month since the students and staff at St. Ignatius School took time to remember and reflect on the sacrifices and achievements of those who served Canada in times of war. While we only set aside one day in the calendar year to collectively honour those who have sacrificed their lives for the ideas of peace, justice and freedom, we recognize that we have a responsibility throughout the year to celebrate and preserve the peace that has come to us at a high cost.

As a school community we solemnly acknowledged the lives

lost in Italy, Normandy, and Belgium during World War II, as the year 2009 marks three significant anniversaries in Canada's military history. Prayers and poems connected us to the loss and suffering that is ever-present during times of war. However, as a Christian community, we are not without hope, even though wars and rumours of wars continue to rage throughout the world. Isaiah 2:4 states that *"The Lord will settle disputes among great nations. They will hammer their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare for*

battle again." Through the prayers, poems, artwork, and songs shared by the many participating students in the Remembrance Day service, we as a community were once again reminded that peace begins with each one of us. If we allow Christ's light to shine through us, we will illuminate His love and care for the world, igniting steady fires of hope and peace through our words and deeds. As we have now entered the Christmas season, let each candle that is lit remind us that our lives are Christ's candles of peace, hope and love in a world of great need: May we shine ever bright.

