



News from Community Schools

They Got Your Back!

Every Wednesday you'll find a group of dedicated volunteers gathered at the Family Worship Center preparing bags of food for students from our local schools. "The Got Your Back" program was established here in the Eastern Charlotte just under two years ago community Partner The Family Worship Center began with delivering 10 backpacks filled with easy to prepare food items to help students over the weekend when they are not at school where they have access to breakfast and lunch programs. It began when our breakfast programs number saw spikes in usage after weekends and holidays, and how to fill this need the "Got Your Back Program" was identified. Now they service 37 students and their families in the Eastern Charlotte area. To date they have been able to fulfill each back pack request but donations are always needed, both monetary and food are accepted and very much appreciate. Currently the program runs with support from both private and corporate donations, but the numbers are growing. If you're interested in helping out contact Lisa la.justason@gmail.com or call 754-1086.



BHS Secretary Gayle O'Connor pictured here with Got your Back Volunteers John Waugh .

Teen Mentoring

Big Brother Big Sister is a National non for profit organization that is celebrating it 100th year in 2013. They can be found in most major Canadian cities and have been established here in Charlotte County since 2008 with a full time mentoring coordinator (Dolores Borthwick) whose office is at Fundy High School. Big Brother Big Sister is mostly know for it's one on one Mentoring Programs, either the "traditional" Big Brother/ Big Sister matches or the In school mentoring matches which are partnerships between schools and businesses (or other organizations) that allow their employees one hour a week to mentor at a partnering school. However Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer other programs, the newest in our area being Teen Mentoring. Mentoring coordinator Dolores Borthwick has had the wonderful opportunity to expand and offer the very successful Teen Mentoring Program to their partnered community schools of: Blacks Harbour School, St. George Elementary and Fundy High School. Dolores in cooperation with Fundy High Teachers and administration offered the opportunity to become a Teen Mentor to grade 10 and grade 11 students, eventually selecting 4 Girls and 3 Boys to participate in this 1st experimental round. The teens spent an afternoon being trained on self esteem, healthy lifestyle, and being a positive role model. SGES houses the female teen mentors in a one on one program that sees the teens matched with another female student at SGES. They meet one hour a week (during lunch) to share a meal, play games, and just spend time together. Every week the teen mentors say that an hour just isn't long enough! One of our teen mentor Jen says "it's an amazing experience making those kids feel good makes us feel good".

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All the teens agree that the connections they have with their mentees will last: “they are like our little sisters; it’s cool because we have as much fun as they do”.

Our Male Teen Mentoring takes a different approach; they do group mentoring out of Blacks Harbour School centered on the “Game ON!” program that Big Brothers and Big Sisters offer. The boys are trained on facilitating this program which focuses on healthy, active living and being a good citizen. Our Teen mentors meet with a group of 12 BHS boys every Thursday for 12 weeks from 2:30pm to 4pm. Each week has a theme and activities focused around that theme. Our teen mentors really enjoy the time they spend with the BHS Students; when asked why this is a positive experience for them the boys told me that “It’s cool having someone look up to you like that” says Chad. Teen mentor Alex says “it’s a great thing to do for our community, actually it’s a great thing to do for ourselves”, and 3rd teen mentor Brian says “I went to BHS and it’s a good thing to give back to the school I started in”

Dolores Borthwick attends each mentoring session and is there to guide the teens and their mentees if they have questions or concerns. When asked why this program is valuable Dolores said “I see what happens every week when these kids meet its magic. This isn’t about getting out of class for these kids it’s truly about giving back. We continuously underestimate the value of our youth, by providing them with these types of opportunities we help instill confidence, sense of accomplishment and purpose through these programs. This, this is how you change the world.”

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters Dolores can be reached at 755-2002.



Teen Mentors from Fundy High