“ PURPLE PINKIES FOR POLIO”

 **Countdown to History**

Rotary is a group of service clubs, 35,000 all over the world, that raise money to help people who can’t help themselves. Our school is teaming up with the Woodstock Rotary club to raise money to end polio.

Polio is a horrible disease. It affects young children by paralysing their leg muscles so they can’t walk. Many kids can’t go to school because they have polio. Just imagine if you couldn’t walk, run or play games.

But, children can be prevented from getting polio with just a few drops of medicine called a vaccine that costs only $1

 Rotary clubs around the world began the Polio Plus program to END POLIO over 30 years ago (1985). As a result, polio doesn’t exist here in Canada, and the number of children crippled by polio has dropped from 500,000 a year to just 10 so far this year in only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The world is now over 99% polio free but the disease can easily jump borders. **As long as polio exists somewhere there could easily be an outbreak affecting other places**. **Until polio is stopped everywhere every single child in the world must be vaccinated.**

Rotary and its partners are, **oh, so close,** to ending polio, but we need your help to **END POLIO NOW. With your help, this could be the year when we see the world’s last case of polio. Help us make history by ending this horrible disease.**

 Every child that gets the vaccine has their pinkie finger marked purple to show they’ve been given the medicine. We’re asking you to bring a loonie to school. Everyone will have their pinkie fingers marked purple with a removable dye.

Your loonie will help 6 children from getting polio. They will be able to walk and run just like you. **(your $1 matched by $1 from Woodstock Rotary to make $2 which will be matched 2 to 1 by Rotary’s polio partner the Gates Foundation to make $6 -enough for 6 vaccinations at $1 each**