

Sarah's Input About BRES



Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships

ArtsSmarts Grant: Knit and Lit

Grade two students worked with 3 community members to learn to knit.



Eileen Crain (Knitting Nana) started volunteering at BRES during this project. Ten years later she still volunteers at BRES one afternoon a week.



Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships

Carleton North Community Foundation Grant

DIG IN (Drip Irrigation, indoor Gardening to promote increased Interest in growing and eating Nutrient rich herbs and vegetables)

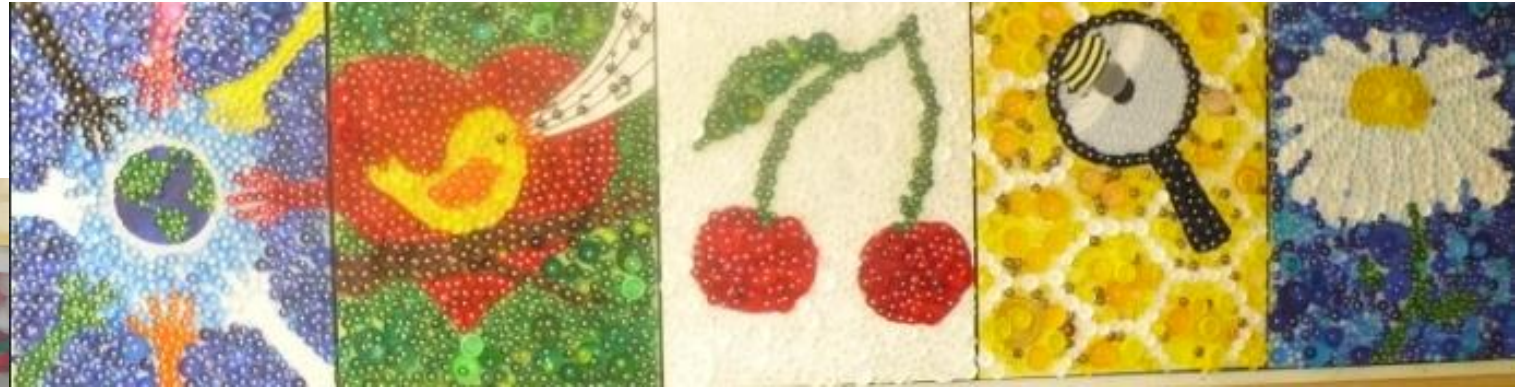


BRES students partnered with the Carleton North Community Foundation to start growing indoors. Later we found funding for a second tower. Out door gardening is happening now in partnership with Valerie Carmichael.



Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships

Mindfulness Mosaic's ArtsSmart Grant- The whole community saved bottle caps. Some community members are still saving them and asking when BRES students will be creating another mural.



Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships

Students worked with community members Jennifer Bell and Betty Briggs on an ArtSmart grant called, “Edible Illustrations”. BRES students learned about the food groups and healthy eating while illustrating and sharing their writing.



Students took home their writing and illustrations on Friday's to share with their friends and family. They created a hard cover book of edible illustrations and writing for the BRES library.

Special events that encourage Community School Partnerships



Butterfly garden grant. Partnership with local daycare who come to care for it on summer break and in partnership with local green house.

Student Voice

Angela and Jackie later applied for a much larger grant for new books for each BRES classroom, based on student interest and choice.

Students gave input into the types\topics of books they were interested in. This resulted in collections of Minecraft books, LEGO books and Pokemon books.

Carleton North Community Foundation Grant

High Interest Reading Club



Student Voice

Carleton North Community Foundation Grant: Strengthening our Smarts- provided BRES students with materials for student clubs.

In response to a staff book study, students learned about the diverse ways in which we learn. Then clubs were created based on a variety of interests and smarts. Knitting club and chess club are only two of the groups that were created.



Student Voice

Through an ArtsSmart grant: AWAKE- (Art and activities that promote Working Memory, Activate Knowledge and encourage Engagement), students created treasure from trash. BRES students are concerned about sustainability and taking care of our earth.



Student Voice

After a tsunami, BRES students voiced a desire to help. They held a bottle drive. With the money raised, they give KIVA loans to people in third world countries. The money gets repaid so the loans can be given year after year. Each class gets to choose who to fund.



kiva
Loans that change lives



School Benefits

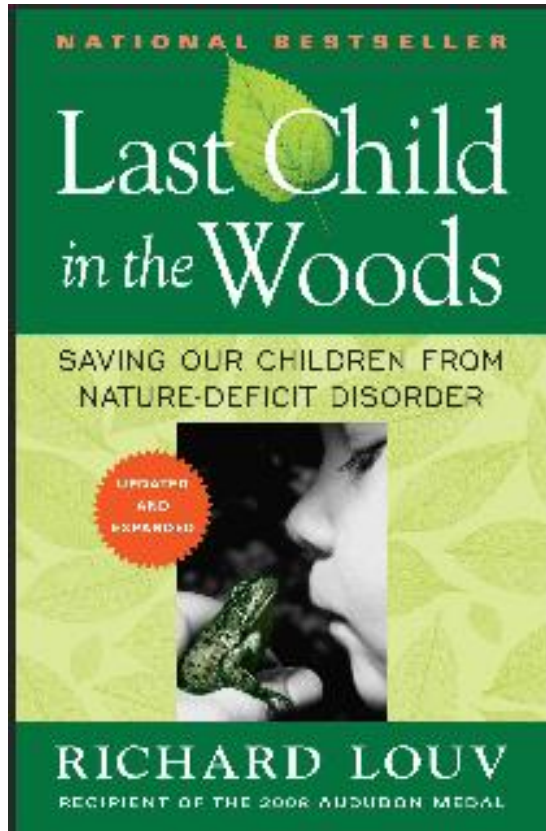
ArtsSmarts Grant: BAM!!!- Building A Mindset (of growth.....Super Heroes in Disguise)

Every staff member at BRES knows each student in the school and their strengths. Staff take every opportunity to build on these strengths. Grade two students had the opportunity to learn more about their strengths by working with a local artist. Every staff member in the school can stand on the school steps and greet each student by name as they arrive.



School Benefits

Most new schools have small rectangular fenced in school yards. Bristol Elementary has a large playground surrounded by woods. Staff did a book study about, “Last Child in the Woods” and students at BRES happily play in the woods building forts at noon hour.



School Challenges -

We do not have a cafeteria. Some see this as a con. However, I see this as a **positive**. I used to teach at a large K-8 school with a new cafeteria. Supervision in the cafeteria was very stressful. It was so loud in the cafeteria and it was a rush to walk students to and from the cafeteria that was at the other end and on a different level of the school. At BRES we eat in our classrooms with our students. Many students don't have sit down family meals as often as we did growing up. The classroom lunch setting is a great time for staff to model polite conversations, manners, healthy eating. I enjoy sitting with my students and having this daily experience.



School Challenges -

We usually only have one classroom at each grade level at BRES. Some see this as a challenge. **However, I see this as a benefit.** It forces our staff to think of the students as one big group and not by grade level. We are responsible for the learning of all the students in our school and not just our grade level. We go to each other to collaborate on problems and celebrate successes. Technology makes it easy for us to stay in contact with same grade teachers from school around the province.

