



Bridging Generations

Winter 2015

www.volunteergrandparents.ca

Important Announcement:

In the New Year, Program Manager Veronica Grossi will be going on maternity leave. We will be seeking to hire a new part time employee to ensure our programs and services continue to be delivered seamlessly to the community. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office: 604-736-8271.

Please note that our office will be closed from December 21st until January 1st.

Wishing Everyone a Very Merry Christmas!



Nurturing Young Readers By Pat Thomas

I was asked to write a paragraph for the newsletter about the Volunteer Grandparents School Program and decided to share two different views. One is from a volunteer who has been reading with the children and another from the teacher who has 20 years experience with the program.

Gloria Brown is a volunteer in the School Grandparent Program at Grandview Elementary and shares her views on the benefits to all who participate:

She has been volunteering for three years and likes reading personally and feels it is an activity that everyone enjoys, given the opportunity. Gloria states "it is a pleasure to hear and watch a child read. The different expressions, the questions they ask while reading. The biggest reward is watching the growth in each student from September to June."

Gloria also takes the time to give credit where it is due by stating "The two teachers that I work with are treasures that the school is fortunate to have on staff."

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The next is from Wendy Fouks, the teacher who ensures that the program is run with the excellence of experience.



“Grandview/ʔuuqinak’uuh School, in the Inner City of Vancouver, has a dynamic multicultural student population. The teaching assignments are challenging and very rewarding.

This is my 20th year at Grandview working in the Primary Resource Department. The main focus of my teaching has been working with beginning primary students who are acquiring the basic skills needed to be successful readers. We have been extremely fortunate to be able to offer quite a unique approach to the learning environment in my classroom. Each student has been able to work in a small group or more often, in a one-to-one learning situation daily four days a week because of the wonderful volunteers who have been coming to our school for many years. All of the participants in the programme have been patient, caring and extremely competent. They enjoy listening to children read and providing a safe, nurturing environment in which students are able to develop their skills. I could not offer this kind of educational milieu without the generous amount of time the Volunteer Grandparents give to the school.

I am grateful every day for their energy and devotion to our children. It has made a world of difference to all of us. And it has ensured that many of our students will have a better chance of becoming competent learners thanks to the dedication of this organization.”

I am grateful that they took the time to share their reasons for believing this program is beneficial, rewarding and so important to the children. I am a volunteer and enjoy each and every day that I can spend with the children at this school. The goal is to have more schools participate in the program and more volunteers so that many more children can benefit from the one-on-one reading. If you are interested in getting involved with this meaningful program, please contact Volunteer Grandparents: 604-736-8271.

Helpful Links to Support Young Learners:

<http://www.readbrightly.com/4-ways-to-help-grandparents-start-reading-traditions-with-their-grandkids/>

<http://www.one-to-one.ca/resources/>