

COMMUNITY MATTERS

For the good of our community

Westwind Elementary School presents a cheque for \$7,001 to Richmond Hospital Foundation in support of a new Acute Care Tower.



WESTWIND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHING FUTURE GENERATIONS THE JOY OF GIVING

Learning how to be a good community citizen is one of life's important lessons, and Westwind Elementary School has taken this lesson to heart. Rallying together students, staff, parents and families over the last three months, students learned the value of helping others and giving back by raising \$7,001 in support of Richmond Hospital.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says Vic Pantaleo, teacher for the grade 5/6 class at Westwind Elementary School. "Part of this fundraising exercise is for the students to understand that social responsibility starts with mutual respect and caring for one another. When we started to look beyond the school, one of the cornerstones of this community is a hospital. The class made that connection and understands how important health

care is to us. They are the ones who will be benefitting from local health care."

In April, students from Mr. Pantaleo's class visited Richmond Hospital to learn more about our local health care system, with hands-on demonstrations about medical equipment and opportunities to ask questions about the health care profession. "Seeing our students connecting with hospital professionals and engaging with medical equipment was such an unbelievable experience," says Pantaleo. "The entire class left with so much excitement."

Since then, Westwind Elementary School has been passionately raising funds through numerous events including bakes sales, daffodil sales, ice cream sandwich sales, as well as partnering with COBS Bread at Blundell Centre for a BBQ fundraiser.

Their most successful event was Westwind's Fine Arts night, which featured an auction for collaborative art projects from every class as well as performances by the school's band and individuals, raising a total of \$2,700 in one night.

"Our organizing committee, made up of six student leaders in my class, had reached out to our student council, to our lend-a-hand club, to the teachers and the Parent Advisory Committee," says Pantaleo. "Every staff, student, and parent had participated in some way. It was a combination of hundreds and hundreds of donations from the community that made this possible."

Richmond Hospital Foundation presented Westwind Elementary School with an Award of Excellence in recognition of their significant contributions to raise funds, engage younger generations to embrace

leadership, give back to their community, and for making local health care a priority in Richmond, now and in the future.

"We feel incredibly successful and proud of what we achieved together," says Pantaleo. "We have more than 400 students at our school and many were born here at Richmond Hospital. One day in the future, when we drive by Richmond Hospital, we will be proud to know we participated in helping to build this new Acute Care Tower."

"It's been an inspirational journey to watch my students be excited about giving back to the community and seeing the community believe in this cause as well," he says. "We are teaching our kids to treat others how you want to be treated, and our actions have modeled what being a good community citizen is all about."

Help support the health of Richmond residents and make a donation to help those in need of care.

If you would like more information about making a donation, please visit richmondhospitalfoundation.com or call us at 604.244.5252

Q How can you and your company get involved in improving health care in Richmond?

A To take an active leadership role to support Richmond Hospital, please contact Richmond Hospital Foundation to learn more about sponsorship opportunities to help purchase new medical equipment, improve patient care services and help save lives right here at home.