

Knowlton Academy students build Wall of Perseverance

By Ann Davidson

As a symbol of perseverance the students and staff Knowlton Academy are building an ice wall in front of the school. The project is one that was launched last week as the elementary school's own unique initiative within the Eastern Townships School Board's "Hooked On School Days Week," which falls annually in February. This year's project has been received with such enthusiasm from students that it will be extended to the end of this week. Students and staff want to invite all members of the community to join them in the process of building their structure.

In its quest to offer lifelong learning to children, the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) supports a number of initiatives that target academic success and perseverance in school. Some initiatives are directly spearheaded by the board, while some individual schools and centres have initiated their own projects. All fall within a nationwide movement to prevent student dropout, called "Hooked on School Days Week."

The ETSB says that "Hooked on School Days" intends to sensitize the public

about the importance of encouraging our youth to persevere. It wants to transmit the notion of everyone needing support, no matter what age. The professionals at the board know that February is "a critical time in the school year, during which young people may experience a decline in motivation and perseverance." That is why the board and Estrie media have made school perseverance one of its major dossiers during the "Hooked On School Days Week."

This year Knowlton Academy's hands-on approach is to help students understand the concept of perseverance. Principal Renalee Gore, says, "Brick by brick, together we persevere; students, staff, families, and our community for our wall of perseverance." Gore added that the initiative fits perfectly with the Knowlton Academy motto: "Dream big, work hard, persevere, have someone who believes in you, and you will be successful."

The idea of the multi-coloured ice wall was discovered online by grade one teacher Mylène Bessette, and seized by kindergarten teacher Cathy Cahill, who encouraged the staff to move forward with it. It is something that all the students from kindergarten to grade seven



ANN DAVIDSON

Tara Moar, her husband Matthew Greer and their two sons, Oliver and Dexter made it their business on Sunday to add a purple brick for baby sister Blake.

can take part in. Gore says that once the students started to actually see tangible results, they became enthusiastic. "That is why we are extending it for another week and want the community to participate with us," she emphasized, "be-

cause this school embraces the entire community in so many ways."

Each brick of ice is made with a two-litre carton (milk or juice) as the form. It

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

The Record, Feb. 24, 2015

Wall of Perseverance

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

is filled with water and a favourite food colour, well mixed and then frozen. It is best to leave the top of the carton open before freezing so that the carton can be peeled off the frozen block more easily. It takes about 48 hours for the ice to be solid. Not fully frozen, the brick will collapse. Placing the bricks on the

wall requires cementing with snow. To ensure stability, they are positioned in a subway design with the bricks always overlapping the cracks or joints of the layer underneath.

Families, couples, individuals, seniors, youth, and all who fall between — anyone wanting to contribute or join in

can either leave unfrozen filled containers or frozen ones at the front door of the school on Victoria St. in Knowlton. or they can place them on the wall making sure that they are secured with wet snow underneath and between the adjacent bricks. If lucky enough, students will be able to help you.