

PHELPS AIDE PHELPS HELPS

By Clea Corman

Hooked on School Week is all about highlighting the importance of staying in school, but also taking time to recognize that it is not always easy and that perseverance plays a key role. Often, perseverance is encouraged by parents, teachers, friends and role models, giving students that push to stick with it even though school can be hard.

The Mayor of Stanstead, Philippe Dutil, took time on Tuesday to visit Phelps's High School Tutoring Program to speak with students about the importance of finishing high school. He spoke of how he himself was a bright student, but was always more motivated when he was interested in a subject and applied himself much less when he was uninterested by the material, something we can all relate to. Mr. Dutil also spoke of his hometown, Stanstead, and the job opportunities in the area waiting for students once they graduate.

Addressing the elephant in the room – school can be hard and that does not make you unintelligent – is equally important with elementary students. Phelps's Programs Director, Katie Lowry,

read aloud a very special book to the students in the Elementary Homework Program called 'Thank You, Mr. Falker'. The book is about an artistically-gifted student so excited to read only to find that all the letters and numbers move around on the page, eluding her valiant attempts to learn and succeed in school, and a helpful teacher who takes the time to understand her difficulties.

All students are different: they learn differently, have their own unique set of challenges, but also have their own individual talents. Recognizing this can make all the difference. For Phelps and for all schools, the Hooked on School Week emphasizes what we try to teach students throughout the year: school is important.

Phelps Aide Phelps Helps is an educational non-profit that provides Stanstead area students with free tutoring, educational support and hands-on learning for both elementary and high school students. To participate in Phelps's programs or to become a volunteer send an email to info@phelpshelps.ca or call 819-704-0799. For more information about Phelps or to make a donation, please visit www.phelpshelps.ca

