

December 2016

Spreading Holiday Cheer at Verdun Elementary School

As Christmas time approaches, school life changes. Hopeful looks on student's faces appear with the realization of the ever-nearing holiday break, and the spirit of giving seems to permeate the halls.

As the school fills with enthusiastic chatter, many students are given the chance to participate in holiday-themed field trips. Every year, many students partake in a Westwood Christmas tradition, which encourages the helping of others who are in need.

On December 14th, 80 Westwood students traveled to Verdun Elementary school to spend the day with younger students, in hope to spread some Christmas cheer. Along with spending time with the children, lunch was made, a play performed and gifts were distributed to the 280 students attending the Verdun school.

Christmas baskets filled with toys and food that had been donated by Westwood students and staff members were also transported to the elementary school, where they would be later given out to families in need.

This year, I had the opportunity to go on the Verdun Christmas trip along with other Grade 9, 10, and 11 students. While some students worked in the kitchen, and others entertained the children, my job was that of an elf, delivering the gifts that were purchased by Westwood students.

We spent half the day handing out gifts to each and every student who was attending school that day. Over the course of the few hours we spent doing this small task, we had the chance to witness the positive impact we had on the students and staff at the elementary school.

Many of the students were ecstatic about the small toys and games they were given, eager to thank us for our generosity.

Both groups of students, high school as well as elementary, enjoyed the experience of sharing holiday spirit. The goal of the day was to spread holiday cheer and allow these elementary students to get to see their older peers as role models. That goal was definitely achieved.

As the 85 Westwood students took the long bus ride back to Hudson, we realized that we perhaps got as much out of the experience as the Verdun elementary students did.

by Hayley Day
(grade 9 student)



[Click here for additional photos](#)