



Reflections on “Project Princess” by Mrs. Black’s Grade 5/6 Class



One day, Mrs. Black came to school and told us about an abused dog that was found at the side of the road, near Alliston. We were in shock! We couldn't believe that anyone would treat a dog like they treated Princess. We decided we wanted to help by raising money and sending get well cards to her. Mrs. Black wanted to invite other schools to join us, so she told the Simcoe County School Board about our project to help Princess. The Board sent out a media release and, all of a sudden, newspapers and radio stations started calling to find out more about our project.

To raise money to help pay Princess' medical bills, we hosted a “hat day.” Kids from our class went and spoke about Princess in every other classroom in the school, and invited everyone to bring in a loonie so they could wear a hat at school for a day. We also did a coin drive in our classroom. The kids in our class brought in coins from home, and from some of their relatives. Mrs. Black promised to match our coin drive, up to \$100. In the end, our class raised \$713.09 for Princess. We were very sad to hear that Princess passed away before we got to meet her but our efforts were still worth it.

We learned that just because we didn't know Princess or any of her helpers, it didn't mean we couldn't help out. We learned that if you believe in something or love something enough, you can do great things. We learned that every little bit helps. We learned to work as a team. We learned to speak out against animal abuse. We learned that just because things didn't end the way we hoped, didn't mean the ending wasn't happy. It was definitely a happy ending to a long sad story for Princess. We are happy that she experienced love for the last six weeks of her life, and that she's no longer in pain.

We were inspired by Princess' bravery and strength, but mostly by the way she forgave people for the things they did to her. She chose to trust kind people like Pattie and the other people who helped her, even after all the terrible things that people did to her in the past. We know Pattie told her how much we loved her. We hope she understood that. Rest in peace, our sweet Princess. You changed our lives for the better and we promise that, in the future, we will continue to help other animals in need... just like you.