

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER 2012

The Black Family

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from Orillia! This has been a rewarding year, filled with many enjoyable times and significant events.

MARGARET

blackdeer.edublogs.org
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I am in my third year teaching Grade 5/6 at Rama Central P.S. Right now, my class is engaged in a very moving character education project, raising funds to assist with the medical care and rehabilitation of an abused dog in Alliston. Thus far, my students have raised over \$100. via an in-class coin drive and \$268. via a school-wide "Hat Day." I offered to match their coin drive contributions up to \$100., so they will be donating over \$500. to the Humane Society!



Newspaper photo of my class on "Hat Day"

We wanted to challenge other schools to join us in this outreach project, so I asked the Simcoe District County School Board to help us spread the word. They issued a media release about what we are doing to help Princess-the-dog. Over the next four days, our project took on a life of its own! The press jumped all over the good news story that children want to make a difference. Our project was featured in two newspaper articles, a radio news report and a television news report. My class and I hope that all this exposure will inspire others to donate, and send out a message that animal abuse is **NOT** okay!

EMILY

*Em and Bailey,
Killbear Park
camping trip*



This fall, Emily transferred to the school where I teach. Although she sometimes misses her friends at Harriett Todd P.S., she is really enjoying Grade 7 at our small, country school, and has joined "beginner band." Em is learning to play the trombone. This year, she is also learning to sew.

In October, Em fractured a growth plate in her heel. She had crutches and a cast for four weeks, and is now in a removable "air cast" for another three weeks (until Christmas). Em has coped well with the inconvenience, but can't wait to get back to dance. She is receiving physiotherapy, in preparation for her return to gym and dance class in the new year.



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SUMMER FUN

www.blackdeer.ca/adventures/recent.html

In 2012, Em, Bailey-the-dog and I enjoyed a wonderful four weeks tent-camping in Ontario. Here's where we went:

- Albion Hills Campground with my nephews/Em's cousins
- Paddle-in camping, via kayak, on Canisbay Lake in Algonquin Park (our first interior trip on our own!)
- Campground-camping in Killarney Provincial Park, with our friends Deb, Kerri and Lorelei
- Campground-camping on our own in Grundy and Killbear Provincial Parks (we visited Science North on this trip)
- Canoe/kayak-tripping to North Tea Lake, in the Algonquin Park interior, with our friends Louise and Christopher



Albion Hills campground-camping trip



Canisbay Lake paddle-in trip, via kayak



"Gord's Island"

In other Gord-related news, we are thrilled to announce that this past summer the *Gordon Black Memorial Camp Sponsorship Fund* enabled its 150th underprivileged child to attend day camp at Wye Marsh, on full sponsorship! Thank you to Wye Marsh staff, and the friends and relatives who have supported the fund year-after-year, since its inception in 2003. Gord would be so pleased!



North Tea Lake canoe/kayak trip

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