



## Celebrating Safe Positive Schools

Our school project was **Kindness Week**.

### How did you do it?

As part of our school Learning Improvement Plan objective to create a school climate of respect and safety, Saskatoon French School initiated a conversation with students, staff and parents around commonly held values in the school. The end result was the following belief statement:

*“We believe in kindness, respect, learning and safety so we can live in community at Saskatoon French School.”*

Throughout the year different activities have taken place within our Big Family Groups that have highlighted these individual beliefs. Our 16 Big Family Groups are comprised of a cross-section of students from Kindergarten – Grade 8. Our senior students have then been able to engage in leadership development activities while developing the sense of belonging and acceptance for all our students. The intent is to have students remain part of their BFG throughout their school years at SFS.

Our school has a School Climate Committee with a cross-section of staff from many levels as well as our school social worker, administration and school culture and climate coordinator. Students have a voice through classroom teachers and the school culture and climate coordinator who is also the Senior English Language Arts teacher.

The week of February 23 – 27 was named “Kindness Week” or “La semaine de la gentillesse”. Below are the various activities undertaken throughout the week.

### **Monday, February 23, 2009**

*Morning announcement theme:* Be the change

#### *Activity:*

Kick-off assembly - Explaining the kindness theme for the day: “Kindness starts here,” showing a YouTube video around the theme for “Wear Pink Against Bullying.” Going back into our Big Family Groups so that gr. 8 leaders may describe the week’s activities.

*Goal:* Introduction of the theme that “Kindness starts here”, explanation of random acts of kindness and presentation of the story behind “Wear Pink Day” on Wednesday.

**Tuesday, February 24, 2009**

*Morning announcement theme:* Random acts of kindness

*Activity:*

Students are to do random acts of kindness. At the end of the day they are given a heart where they write out what they did. The hearts are collected by the homeroom teacher for an activity at the end of the week.

*Goal:* The promotion of kindness between members of our school community through random acts of kindness.

**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

*Morning announcement theme:* Pro-social / anti-bullying

*Activity:* “Wear Pink” spirit day and assembly. While religion students went to St. John Bosco for the Ash Wednesday celebration, our moral ethics students participated in cooperative games around the theme of kindness. After the religion students returned, the assembly’s theme followed the anti-bullying theme. A skit was performed around the “Wear Pink” spirit day and we had Grade 4 students present their culminating presentation from the Steps to Respect Program, which helped teach the larger student population about bullying and how to stop it.

*Goal:* Celebrating our random acts of kindness.



**Thursday, February 26, 2009**

*Morning announcement theme:* Reaching out to the community / leadership

*Activity:* Our grade 8 leaders take the initiative during the day to go connect on a personal level with every member of their group in a very informal way. Once the

connection is made the group member is given a small heart that he or she signs. Classroom teachers kept the heart for the next day's activity.

*Goal:* Promoting leadership with our senior students and a sense of safety and community with our younger students

**Friday, February 27, 2009**

*Morning announcement theme:* Kindness stays here.

*Activity:* Our Big Family Groups met to put together a poster with the hearts accumulated over the week. Students were given a small stone on which they painted a heart; they are keeping the stones to remind them that "Kindness stays here." Spirit day theme was to wear white as a symbol of peace within our school and community.

*Goal:* Celebration of the week's events while assembling a patchwork of good deeds and sharing the concept that kindness extends beyond a week at Saskatoon French School.

