

École Deer Meadow Students shine with innovative 'Titan Talk' video announcements



Left to right: École Deer Meadow School students Mukulu Shamvu, Callie Kemmere, Carter Kemmere, Jameson Clattenburg

"It all started long ago... well not that long ago," joked Carter Kemmere, in a sing-song-story-telling voice. Kemmere, a Grade 8 student at École Deer Meadow School, was referring to 'Titan Talk', a new video format of weekly announcements he is part of producing at his school. ***"But actually,"*** Carter explained, ***"it started with an assignment I did with my friend Mukulu [Shamvu] for English class. I decided to make a video and be creative. My teacher loved it, and it got us thinking."***

Carter said he, Shamvu and two others - his sister Callie Kemmere and fellow student Jameson Clattenberg - noticed posters around the school announcing a variety of events and opportunities for students and the group wondered if that information might be more easily accessed if it was delivered via video. The group decided to give it a try and the school administration liked it so much that a couple months ago they made it a part of Monday morning weekly announcements, played in each classroom.

Each Wednesday after school, the group of four gathers at the Kemmere home to film the next week's Titan Talk edition. The students sometimes invite guests to interview, all arranged by Callie Kemmere. Sometimes they do skits, tell jokes, or do a weather forecast. The videos generally run three to six minutes in length and are edited by Carter Kemmere, using an app on his phone.

"I like editing a lot. I can take an idea and make it what I want," said Carter Kemmere. ***"It's something I'm good at and it's fun to do."***

Mukulu Shamvu, a Grade 8 student said, "I really like how Carter is such a good editor. Sometimes one of us will have a weird idea, and he makes it happen."

Creating Titan Talk is ***"not too hard of a job,"*** according to Jameson Clattenburg, a Grade 6 student. ***"And it's spending time with my friends so it's fun. I also think it's helping students at school because now they don't just see the information on a poster."***

"I really enjoy it. It's fun to make. I think it's good that people know what's going on at school, and also they look forward to school on Monday more," said Callie Kemmere, a Grade 6 student. ***"It's also funny when people come up to me and say, 'hey, you're from Titan Talk'."***

To watch a recent episode of Titan Talk [click here.](#)



School administration is impressed with the effort and creativity that goes into the videos. ***“The students videoed the weather portion outside on the playground, and interviewed an athlete at a volleyball tournament over the weekend. They definitely go the extra mile,”*** said Jennifer Jackson, Vice Principal of École Deer Meadow School.

“Titan Talk really has connected the school,” she said. ***“The students are very creative in how they interview, what they say and how they edit the final product. It’s neat to watch.”***

The videos contain information about what is happening the coming week, such as hot lunches, various sales, social events, athletics, clubs and more. The producers also respond to student questions. For instance, Callie Kemmere said a student had asked them to explain more about the mentoring program, so the four producers created a skit about it, including a fictional character who was bullied and then rescued by their mentor.

The videos are filled with humor and antics such as a weather forecast delivered on a toboggan hill with the students wearing life jackets, or a basketball appearing and suddenly disappearing due to editing effects. Students say they look forward to watching it because of the humor and the fun things the four producers do.

“It’s funnier and definitely not so serious. It’s an easy way to get our attention,” said Zrain Caron-Ladines, a Grade 8 student.

“I like that it’s fun and they mess around a bit. I like the weather report and that they do interviews. It’s good information,” said Julia Adema, a Grade 8 student.

The group said fellow producer Mukulu Shamvu is behind much of the humour, imagining interesting edits, employing accents, and asking good interview questions. Sometimes the group has to do repeated takes of something they are videoing because they are laughing so much. Shamvu said he has a great time making the videos, but then... ***“it’s sometimes hard to watch the video on Monday morning, seeing some of the things I did when we filmed it on Wednesday,”*** said Shamvu laughing, recalling his own antics.



Photos on this page: Titan Talk producers record an interview with students from the school’s basketball team for an upcoming edition.



Everyone Deserves a Smile!

Little elves from Beacon Hill Elementary share plenty of reasons to smile this Christmas

By Sandy Bexon

Teacher Sheryl Christoffersen has been leading the way, as Grade 4 Beacon Hill Elementary School students worked on holiday bags for clients of Red Deer's Safe Harbour and The Mustard Seed over the last few months.



"We handpainted each gift bag, created a card and homemade sugar cookies for each one, and then stuffed them with donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, socks, toques and mitts," said Sheryl.

"Grade 4 students, along with the Grade 5 & 6 Everyone Deserves a Smile Team worked together on this. Along with staff and families, we created 216 gift bags!"



"Students from Grades 4-6 handed out the bags last Thursday and they were thrilled to see all their effort was so appreciated. They really enjoyed sharing their gifts and said everyone was so grateful. They were really thoughtful about what to write in their cards, thinking about what they would want to hear if they were experiencing homelessness. They are so compassionate," said Sheryl.



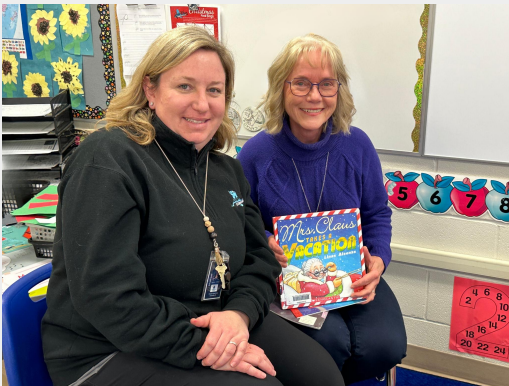
In the end, there were plenty of smiles with both giving and receiving - and everyone deserves a smile!



Everywhere some Christmas cheer!

John Wilson students enjoy guest Christmas readers

John Wilson School in Innisfail welcomed a handful of guest readers last week, to share stories of the holidays with students. Board Chair, Holly Bilton, was a guest reader, as well as some division office staff and community members.



John Wilson teacher Jocelyn O'Neill and guest reader Erika Newsham have a special bond that stretches beyond a love of sharing Christmas stories with students.

When O'Neill was a student in Innisfail, one of her teachers was Newsham! Both teachers commented about the value that flows from a strong sense of community.



The joy of giving

Chinook's Edge division office staff enjoyed the spirit and gift of giving... wrapping presents they have collected for two families they have 'adopted' for Christmas.

Spreading musical cheer

Penhold Elementary School's Christmas Caroling Club spread some holiday cheer at a staff lunch hosted by the Board. Everyone loved the music the students shared and their holiday enthusiasm!

