

## Christmas magic and community spirit shine at École H.J. Cody's first annual Christmas Market

A hustle-bustle energy and Christmas Magic filled the air at École H.J. Cody School's first annual Christmas Market on November 23. The market welcomed about 300 community members to the Sylvan Lake School in four hours Saturday morning.

*"We couldn't stop smiling," said Jamie Fisher, Educational Assistant at H.J. Cody, and one of the market's organizers. "The joy it brought to the students and our community was wonderful."*

Holly Schultz, an EA at H.J. Cody, received word in August that the community Yuletide market that students had participated in the past two years wasn't continuing this year.

Students involved in the school's Creative Gems counted on revenue generated at that market. Also, Creative Gems leaders appreciated the purpose and opportunity that event provided to students.

Creative Gems runs as a small business within the school, providing real life marketing, and sales opportunities for life skills students. In the past, Creative Gems students created handmade crafts to sell at the Yuletide market.

Knowing the value of the event, and that it wouldn't continue this year, Schultz and Fisher requested permission from the school's leadership to host a market of their own.

For this year's market, Creative Gems invited other student crafters from throughout Chinook's Edge schools in Sylvan Lake, as well as some of the parents who wanted to sell homemade products.





Products included jewelry, baking, Christmas mats, Christmas decorations, T-shirts, potted plants and floral arrangements, 3D printed products and woodworking crafts. Organizers intentionally did not charge a table fee for product sellers, to reduce barriers for young entrepreneurs.

Also, the H.J. Cody band performed, the cast for the upcoming production of Alice in Wonderland sang Christmas carols, and even Santa made a visit.

***“It was a lot of work and energy, but when we saw it all rolled out, and felt all the magic in the air, it was amazing,” says Fisher.***



***“All day long I was weeping happy tears. It was just so successful and a real privilege to see all the hard work pay off,” says Schultz.***

***“This was just another way of HJ Cody giving back to our community,” says Alex Lambert, Principal, H.J. Cody School. “It was a great opportunity for our students who participate in Creative Gems to engage with the community, to showcase their work and be proud of it. We love that it provided opportunities to students and families throughout our community, and that we had the privilege of welcoming our community into the walls of our school.”***





Students throughout the community enjoyed the event. Cowen Garrow, an H.J. Cody student says, ***“My favorite part of this event was Santa Claus.”*** Indy Robinson, an H.J. Cody student says, ***“my favorite part of the day was the Christmas spirit!”***

Brian Judge, from C.P. Blakely Elementary School in Sylvan Lake says, ***“My favorite part of the day was the hot chocolate.”***

Avery Forest, an H.J. Cody student says, ***“I loved when Santa showed up.”***

École Fox Run student Nixon Koesling-Christianson, says ***“I enjoyed seeing friends and family.”***

Fox Run student Theron Simpson says, ***“I liked seeing the little kids’ faces light up when we gave them a balloon.”*** Similarly, Fox Run student Jodin MacLeod says, ***“It was great to see all the little kids really happy walking away with the stuffed animals.”***

Deah Stadnick, also a Fox Run student, says, ***“I like just being here and seeing people be happy and get stuff they like.”***

Fisher says the market outshone their hopes for the day, and as a result, they will likely host a market again next year.

The event also raised more than \$300 plus a significant amount of food donations for the community’s foodbank.

***“Thank you to everyone who attended and to our many volunteers,”*** says Fisher and Schultz. ***“Community spirit is strong in Sylvan Lake and we are grateful.”***





## Congratulations on a great volleyball season Fox Run girls team!

Congratulations to the École Fox Run girls volleyball team for their undefeated season!

Cody Baker and Madison Lee were the coaches.

*Lee says, "Cody and I are proud of the girls' hard work and drive this season. We are incredibly proud that they remained undefeated and won the championship banner for Fox Run School!"*



# Chinook's Edge Family School Wellness Worker touches the life of a student, with "Dreams Take Flight" nomination

A Grade 8 student at Westglen School in Didsbury has had the time of her life, thanks to the efforts of a Family School Wellness Worker (FSW). Jade Davies spent a day at Universal Studios in California last week, after Kerrie Howery, a FSW at Westglen School nominated her for the trip with the Dreams Take Flight organization in Calgary.

***"Nominating Jade was a very easy decision," says Howery. "Jade is an incredible human being. She radiates joy and lights up every single room she is in. She is loved by staff and students at this school and she never lets her disability stop her from doing what she wants to do. She is a child who appreciates absolutely everything."***

Howery says her husband works with the Calgary Fire Department, and it's through that connection she learned about "Dreams Take Flight". ***"He sent me the information to see if I had anyone in mind to nominate, and I instantly thought of Jade," she says.***

Before she left on the trip, Davies said, ***"I am so excited to go. This will be my first time on an airplane."***

After Davies got back, she was readily sharing about the trip with her friends and staff members in the school. ***"I really loved it," says Davies. "I was happy all day and always had a huge smile. It was the best day ever and I'll always remember it. I loved the airplane and that I got to sit in first class."***

The trip highlights included the Mario Kart ride and the Studio Tour, and meeting Optimus Prime. Davies also loved meeting new friends.



Jade Davies and Kerrie Howery, Family School Wellness Worker

Carolyn Massel, Principal of Westglen School says she appreciated Howery's nomination. ***"It took a great deal of time, and thoughtfulness to complete the paperwork. Kerrie saw a need and cared so much she worked to meet it. Kerrie is great at making relationships with students, and strives to make our school a safe place. The nomination and trip flowed from that commitment."***





*Howery says, "I love the Family School Wellness role as quite simply, I love the students and I love supporting them. I love being able to work with them one on one and tailor our sessions to be exactly what each specific student needs. I love seeing every little bit of success that the kids have and celebrating those achievements with them."*

*She says, "It's honestly my dream job and I am proud to be a part of both the FSW team and my staff teams at Westglen and Horizon. I work with so many amazing colleagues who make this job even better than it already is."*

Davies said it meant a lot to her that she was nominated. **"It makes me so happy, and glad to be here. I always have fun at this wonderful school,"** she says, and finishes the sentiment with a **"whoop, whoop!"** and her fist in the air.



Photos on this page, and the photo on the bottom of the previous page are courtesy of the [Dreams Take Flight Facebook page](#).

