

Community Report:

Sustainable Development

Omega School has continued to contribute an abundance of time and resources to sustainable development causes this year. The colony has organized and gathered personal belongings for donations to the Salvation Army. The school once again organized the Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes in which colony families filled boxes with children's items so children in less developed countries could have a gift on Christmas morning. For our Social Justice Project we chose the charity "Days for Girls", which is a foundation that donates hygiene kits for girls in Africa who are in need. The colony made over 200 hygiene kits in total. We also donate locally to The Urban Ministry in which the students made 40 hygiene kits to donate to the homeless. The school purged the majority of older books and resources in order to clean out the building. We donated over 200 books to the Teulon Library and other schools. Lastly the school has been growing their own produce with the new Tower Garden purchased through the Healthy Living grant. Students use to the garden to learn how to grow foods without soil and solely on aeroponics. The students are currently growing 20 types of produce in their garden. Students also planted 280 pumpkin seeds to start their own pumpkin patch. Students would like to sell the pumpkins in the Gimli area and donate to money to our Social Justice causes.

Intellectual Engagement

Students have taken on a few projects this year to help stimulate engagement in the classroom. One project that was worked on was the germination and planting of Colorado Blue Spruce seeds. The seeds were shipped from British Columbia and students had to inquire and brainstorm as to how to get these finicky seeds to germinate and grow successfully. We had a 95% germination rate, however once the trees were strong enough they were transplanted and the success rate came down to nearly a 10% survival rate.

Positive, Respectful Learning Environments

The school has received many upgrades in furniture that promotes a successful and stimulating learning environment. Students were asked last June about the qualities and characterises of their "dream school". The response was cozy reading areas, comfortable seating and upgrades to old and deteriorating furniture. An electric fireplace and couch was purchased to begin the High School reading area. The Early Year's room received finishing touches on their reading corner that included twinkle lights in the reading tent, a rocking chair for the teacher and new book shelves to make a classroom library.