

# RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC AT LEILA NORTH

2020-2021

## Connecting to our Community during Crisis

The pandemic has drawn many emotions out in our school environment as well as in our community. We have experienced loss, fear, confusion, frustration, boredom and rejuvenation of relationships, and a feeling of appreciation for what we have. However, at one point, one of our local long-term care

homes was hit extremely hard and Covid took the lives of many. Our students felt those losses and with their big and warm hearts, they wanted to reach out and help our local community members feel better! Room 34, in collaboration with room 28, decided to spread some cheer to the resi-

dents at the home, while they were separated from their family members. Both classes created many beautiful and creative Christmas cards filled with messages of hope and support. In addition, hundreds of Christmas ornaments out of clay were made, hand painted and individually wrapped for every resident to receive in the home. The class then walked the ornaments and the cards over to the residence.

Our school also decided to create hampers for our local community, with some classes coming together to build a hamper tailored to the needs of one of our families. Our staff all pitched in for a smooth delivery before the holidays.



## Finding Safe and Creative Ways to Make Music Together



Due to the pandemic, the band program has undergone several changes to ensure that students could continue to create high quality music in a safe environment. The band program has always been

open to all students, and this year required a pivot to offer a guitar and percussion program. This change has helped to make band even more approachable and accessible to those students who may have felt shy about learning a brass or woodwind instrument. We are positive that our students will feel much more confi-

dent in returning to “regular” band once we are able to play our wind and brass instruments safely again. The additional skills that the students have acquired this year are those that they can easily transfer to life outside of school. Some of our students have now gotten their own guitars for home use. Some percussion students excitedly bring in song requests to drum along to, that they have tried out on their own at home using pens,

kitchen utensils, etc. and can explain why they work well.

Thank you to our families for their support and encouragement of our student’s music making through this unique year, they have risen to the challenge again and again. It has been wonderful having the opportunity to work with them each week. Thank you and GO BAND!

***“ Together, the students discovered how French is not limited to the confinements of the classroom but outside in the bigger community”***



## Thinking of Others in a Difficult Time

In January, grade 6's from room 19 and room 33 came into Graphics and Woods to make candleholders. The students made one each for themselves to take home and one to be given to a resident of The Maples long-term care home. We knew of the hard times the care home was going through and so the students worked diligently to complete a gift of hope for the residents.

Here they are with some of the completed candleholders that were sent to the Maples Care Home.



Thank you Grade 6 for your hard work and kindness to the community.

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media!**



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## Making Adjustments in the Media Classroom

The 2020-2021 school year has looked a little different in the media lab. The lab space has extended into part of the library to accommodate student physical distancing. Students have been working on independent multimedia projects including computer games, films, animations, websites, and podcasts. Students have been working with software including iMovie, Adobe

Premiere, Photoshop, GameFroot, Garage Band, and Adobe Audition. Many student projects will be featured in the upcoming 7 Oaks Student Film Festival in May.

