

MOUNT PEARL CITIZENS' CRIME PREVENTION LAUNCHES BUDDY BENCH PROGRAM

The Mount Pearl Citizens' Crime Prevention Committee in partnership with the IceCaps Care Foundation, The RNC and Mount Pearl Law Enforcement is pleased to sponsor an Empathy Building project for primary school students in Mount Pearl. The official launch of the program took place at Morris Academy in Mount Pearl on June 1, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. It helps spread the message of inclusion and kindness! It also helps develop empathy in students.



Standing (l-r) Trevor Murphy ,St. John's IceCaps, Kathy MacPherson and Rosalind Pratt from Mount Pearl Crime Prevention, Cst Darryl Nixon RNC sitting (l-r) Buddy the Puffin, St. John's IceCaps and Cst. Danielle Greavette, City of Mount Pearl Law Enforcement Officer

Buddy Bench is an ordinary park bench that is placed on the school playground. Students are taught that if you are looking for a playmate, you can sit on the bench. This lets other students know that you would like someone to come ask you to play or to simply sit on the bench and talk to you. In this way the bench becomes more than a simple bench. It becomes a teaching tool. It teaches students to be empathetic and to be inclusive. It also teaches students how to be a friend and how to show kindness to other students.

Mount Pearl Crime Prevention decided to extend the Buddy Bench Program a little further by including a teacher's guide with lesson plans on teaching empathy and how to be a friend for students in grade K-3. In addition to the lesson plans, books on empathy and being a friend are included for teachers to read to their students. The Buddy Bench and the lessons that accompany it are designed to help teach children the virtue of caring.

"IceCaps Care and the Williams Family Foundation are pleased to be associated with the Buddy Bench Program in schools in Mount Pearl," stated Trevor Murphy, IceCaps Director, Community Partnerships. We are proud to be associated with a program which encourages tolerance, being a good friend and inclusion. This program will enhance the sense of community among students throughout the primary schools in Mount Pearl and we are pleased to support such an initiative.



Rosalind Pratt, chairperson of Mount Pearl Crime Prevention chats with Buddy who is sitting on the bench.



Standing (l-r) Mayor of Mount Pearl, Randy Simms, Sandra Humphries, principal of Morris Academy, Hon. Paul Lane, MHA for Mount Pearl, Rosalind Pratt, chairperson of Mount Pearl Crime Prevention and Trevor Murphy from St. John's IceCaps. Lying on the bench: Buddy the Puffin from St. John's IceCaps.

Thank You

Mount Pearl Crime Prevention would like to thank the Insurance Bureau of Canada whose investment paid for books for all classes involved with this program. We would also like to thank the Carpenters Millwright College for building the benches, the Paint shop in Mount Pearl for their donation of paint and the art students at O'Donel High School for their painting the benches.