

Stony Mountain School completes 7,000 environmental projects

Third school in Canada to earn Earth School 7 Status

By Natasha Tersigni

Thanks to students, staff and the community, Stony Mountain School is making a big impact on the environment and has reached an elite environmental benchmark by earning Earth School status 7—an accomplishment reached by only two other Canadian schools.

To earn the Earth School statuses, a program that is run by the non-profit SEEDS Foundation, schools complete and record the number of environmental actions and projects they undertake every school year. With every 1,000 projects completed, the school earns a new level.

Last week, Stony Mountain School held an assembly to celebrate the status and recognize those students, teachers and community volunteers, both past and present, that have contributed to the accomplishment.

“Over the years, the students and staff at Stony Mountain School worked extremely hard to improve their community and the environment. We are proud to call Stony Mountain School an Earth 7 school. The exemplarily efforts of the staff and students have demonstrated environmental stewardship at a very high level,” read Stony Mountain School principal Myles Blahut from the SEEDS Foundation letter to announce the school’s new Earth School status.

Stony Mountain joined the SEEDS foundation program in 1994, and just one year later they had completed their first 1,000 projects, earning the title

of Earth School status. While classes took part in different environmental activities over the years, it was the Earth Club — originally organized by former resource teacher Audrey Boch — that organized and completed the majority of the earth-related projects and activities. For the past 14 years, former teacher Sally LeSage has been at the helm of the Earth Club. In recent years, the Earth Club Mothers have grown to include Interlake School Division trustee Sharon Baker



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY NATASHA TERSIGNI

Stony Mountain Earth Club members and leaders held a school-wide celebration last week to honour the school reaching Earth School status 7 and being only the third school in Canada to reach the milestone. Of the recent 1,000 projects completed to earn the status, Earth Club members completed 148 of them.

and former teacher Carmen Dondo.

The club started out as a way to beautify the school grounds by adding outdoor gardens, benches and even an outdoor classroom. The club has grown to be an important aspect in teaching all students about the importance of the environment.

In 2009, Stony Mountain was the first school in Canada to reach Earth School status 4 and, just three years later, to reach status 5. Of the last 1,000 projects the school completed in just eight months to earn status 7, Earth Club were responsible for 148 of them.

Recent projects that the school has undertaken include planting and maintaining school and community gardens, hosting a recycle sale and book exchange café to ensure items no longer wanted by one person can find a new home, promoting the benefits of walking or biking to school, and completing arts and crafts from recycled items.

While time was spent at the assembly celebrating the school’s 7,000 projects, the school is looking forward to reaching Earth School status 8 with another 1,000 projects and is already hard at work completing them.

Earth Club leader Sharon Baker proudly unveils the school’s newest Earth School status 7 banner.



During the assembly, kindergarten students taught the audience the steps needed to properly recycle a milk container. Step 1: drink the milk. Step 2: rinse the container. Step 3: recycle the container.

