

Habitat in the Classroom

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg has been working on developing some materials that Grade 3 and Grade 7 teachers can use in the classrooms. The goal is to educate our youth about the issues relating to poverty housing and to share the role that Habitat plays in solving the problem.

The **Ecole St. Germain Grade 3/4 class** began their project by talking about our basic need with shelter being of the utmost importance. Collaboratively, the students came up with words used for building. They then searched for the French equivalent words in their dictionaries and these words became the week's dictée and spelling words.



Ecole St. Germain grade three class house build, inside and out.

The students were then led in discussions about how people of the community could help

needy families have safe housing. The students researched Habitat for Humanity on the Internet and began planning their own "build". The students, as a community working together, decided what was needed to begin building their house. They created four teams, consisting of construction, landscaping, decorating and furniture.

Through their process they learned:

- Everyone has the right to a safe home.
- It takes many people to build a home.
- When a community comes together, work becomes a pleasure.
- Everyone has something to contribute when it comes to building a house (ideas, talent, muscles, creativity, patience, tolerance of others ideas, working together)
- When we work together, good things happen

Congratulations to Mme. Gnutel and her entire class!

The Oakville School Grade 7/8 students first discussed some of the basic needs of all people and all agree that a decent shelter was everyone's right. They then viewed the different homes that Habitat has built around the world, and focused on those in areas prone to natural disasters. This had particular relevance with the terrible earthquake in Haiti, and the great need for new shelter.

The 12 students split up into groups of three. Two of the groups took on designing and building a model for a house in an earthquake-prone area, and the other two groups designed and built a model for a house in a flood-prone area.