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James Hill students asked to 'try on' a disability

Langley Pos-Abilities Society brings TOAD program to school for respect and diversity week

MIRANDA GATHERCOLE
Times Reporter

Students at James Hill Elementary experienced firsthand what it's like to be blind, to be an amputee and to be paralyzed, at an interactive event on Friday.

The Langley Pos-Abilities Society brought their Try On A Disability (TOAD) program to the school to teach kids about some of the challenges people with disabilities face.

Students had to spread jam on a cracker with just one hand, pour a glass of water while blindfolded, and make their way through an obstacle course in a wheelchair.

"In Langley schools this week it's respect and diversity week, so part of that diversity is understanding that there are people with a variety of different abilities," said James Hill principal Chris Wejr.

"We want them to have more of an understanding of what it's like to have different abilities, and that we all have differences."

This is the first time the society has brought TOAD to a school, and they are hopeful the program can be expand-



James Hill Elementary student Remy Hinze learns how to use a wheelchair during the Try On A Disability day. Video online at langleytimes.com.

Miranda Gathercole/Langley Times

ed to all students in Langley, said Zosia Ettenberg, found of Langley Pos-Abilities Society. "What we're trying to do as our mission is to get people to integrate those with disabilities into their lives as friends, because we all have the same desires and wants.

And quite often, because of the barriers we have in the community, it leaves us out of the loop," Ettenberg said.

"If the kids are sensitized at an early age, then it will carry on through their lives, and people will be integrated. As I

said to them in the beginning, what they're to learn today is 'person first, disability last' and to not define someone by their disability."

The Langley Pos-Abilities Society is also hosting a 'name that toad' contest to come up with a name for their new TOAD mascot. Those who'd like to participate can email Rose at rose@pos-abilities.org. The winner will be announced in April, and will be honoured at their upcoming annual general meeting with a certificate and small gift.

Morning fire at Langley Township church was the second since July

DAN FERGUSON
Times Reporter

A fire at the Christ the King Catholic Church in Langley caused smoke damage to the shop attached to the back of the church residence.

Father Gerard Rusak said he had just returned from driving someone to the airport when he smelled the smoke shortly before 8 a.m.

"At first, I thought it might be the fireplace," he said.

When he saw smoke coming from the shop, he called it in.

Multiple units of the Township of Langley

fire service and RCMP responded.

The blaze was quickly extinguished.

The shop area suffered some smoke damage, but appeared structurally sound.

No injuries were reported.

The fire department said it appeared the blaze started in a waste container.

In July of last year, the church next to the residence suffered relatively minor damage in a fire believed to have been caused by a homeless person who was living under the stairs of the church. Damage was contained to the outside at the staircase.

Christ the King Church and Priory is a traditional Latin Mass centre that serves a congregation of over 100 from all over the Lower Mainland and northern Washington state.

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Correction Notice

In the ad beginning March 2, 2018, the 30% Off Regular Price Stickers & Select Washi Tape coupon was printed with the incorrect end date and French translation. The correct coupon valid dates are FRI 3/2 - THU 3/8/18. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

