Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners
INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Comox Valley Schools
School District No. 71
Communications

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Everybody Deserves A Smile (EDAS) marks 15 years in the Comox Valley

Comox Valley, B.C. – This upcoming holiday season marks a special milestone as Everybody Deserves A Smile (EDAS) celebrates its 15th anniversary with Comox Valley Schools, with 22 schools working together to create 1,500 heartfelt care packages for people experiencing homelessness and hardship in the Comox Valley and beyond.

To help fill these care packages, the EDAS project team is asking the community to donate adult scarves, warm wool or part-wool socks, and toques by Tuesday, Dec. 8. Adult scarves are currently the greatest need, although all three items are still very much needed.

Along with winter essentials, students from throughout the district are adding meaningful personal touches to the care packages, including:

- More than 8,000 sugar cookies being baked and decorated
- More than 2,500 handmade Christmas cards
- More than 2,000 individually decorated EDAS bags

Approximately 1,200 care packages will be distributed locally through 20 soup kitchens, shelters and support agencies, with approximately 300 travelling to Victoria and Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Fifteen years after teacher Chantal Stefan introduced the EDAS project to the district, École Puntledge Park Elementary remains the host school, with its students helping lead the project. Grade 7 EDAS Club members will welcome more than 800 students and staff, guiding them through the packaging experience from Dec. 9 to 11.

It takes an entire community to make EDAS happen each year. The team is incredibly grateful for the many individuals, businesses, service clubs and community organizations stepping forward to make this season possible. Deepest gratitude is extended to the shelters, soup kitchens and support agencies that work tirelessly throughout the year. It is through these meaningful partnerships that the EDAS project is able to reach the people for whom these care packages are intended.

At the heart of EDAS is the meaningful learning taking place in classrooms. This year, the EDAS team is also introducing a new K–12 learning continuum built around three lenses: **SEE, UNDERSTAND and ACT**. This continuum will deepen students' understanding of social inequities, encourage them to look beyond stereotypes and provide opportunities for educators to recognize and celebrate student growth in compassion education.

This 15th anniversary is a celebration of what is possible when an entire school district and its greater community come together with a shared purpose.

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BACKGROUNDER

Thanks to the following donors
Northgate Church for purchasing all 1,500 pairs of gloves; local Rotary clubs for making scarves and contributing financially; RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty for its continued financial support and EDAS bag displays; the Comox Valley Art Gallery, Tin Town Café and Comox Community Centre for showcasing EDAS bag displays; and the local dental community for working towards the goal of collecting 1,500 toothbrushes and 1,500 tubes of toothpaste.

How to donate
The EDAS project team is collecting:

- Warm adult scarves, our greatest need
- Warm wool or part-wool socks
- Warm toques

All three items are still very much needed to reach the goal of 1,500 care packages.

Suggested adult clothing sizes: Women's medium; men's and non-binary XL.

Community donations drop-box locations:

- **Comox:** Comox Community Centre; Comox Regional Library; RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty – Comox
- **Courtenay:** Courtenay Regional Library; RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty – Courtenay; Studio IPF: Inner Pursuit Fitness; Uptown Yarns; Evergreen Club at the Florence Filberg Centre
- **Cumberland:** Cumberland Regional Library

Participating school donation drop-box locations
École Puntledge Park Elementary (Host School); Arden Elementary; Valley View Elementary; École Robb Road; Queneesh Elementary; Highland Secondary; G.P. Vanier Secondary; Mark R. Isfeld Secondary; Huband Park Elementary; Navigate (NIDES) School; Brooklyn Elementary School; Cumberland Community School; Lake Trail Community School; Miracle Beach Elementary; Aspen Elementary; Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Academy.

Pictures courtesy of the EDAS team:



