



Waywayseecappo Community School:Outdoor Education/Land-Based Program

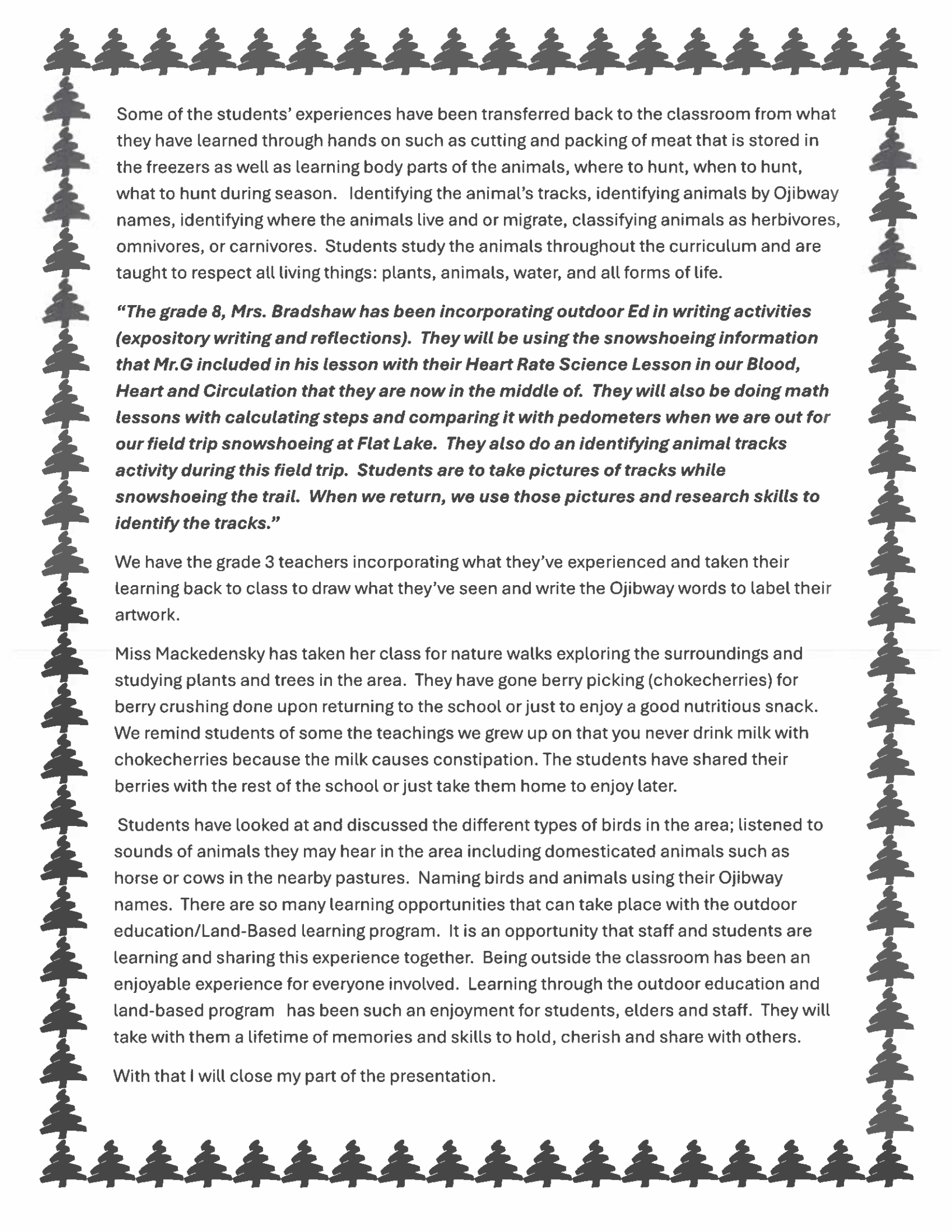
Good evening, everyone my name is Marellia Cote, I am the interim principal at WCS in partnership with Park West School Division, and I am pleased to be a part of this year's outdoor education pilot program. Before I start, just a little bit about myself, I have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. My husband and I enjoy watching our grandchildren play hockey and gymnastics. Every grandparent's favorite past time. Today, I am pleased to share with you the: **Cross Curriculum Related Activities, part of our presentation.**

Students at Waywayseecappo school have been enjoying many fun filled activities planned by Mr. Gionotti who we all know as Mr.G. in the outdoor/land-based education pilot program. Each year our school starts off with the harvest of the community garden run by our grade 4 teacher Mrs. Gambler and an awesome group of students and teachers who plant in the spring and take care of the garden throughout the summer. When school starts, we welcome everyone back with an annual feast and prayers of blessings and thanks for a safe, productive school year for students and staff and all that enter our school. Prayers from the elder and a blessing of the food which is prepared by the cooks is shared with the entire school. The traditional feast and prayers teach our students and staff of always giving thanks to our creator for all our blessings each day.

This year's outdoor education and land-based program started off with students from grades 7 and 8 taking the gun safety training with Mr.G and the gun safety training officer before going out in the early morning hours at 6 A.M. to sunrise. The students sit and watch as hunters from the community show the young ones how to quietly and patiently wait for game animals such as deer, elk, moose, geese and ducks arrive out on the land. In groups of four, students are taken out daily each morning with proper attire as well as tents for shelter from natural elements and snacks and water to keep them warm and safe.

Students have gotten lucky at times during the hunt and have returned to school, where the game is cleaned and the meat is harvested and stored for future meals throughout the school year. Meat is also shared with the elders and also some of the community's families who get to take home some dried meat or a nice backstrap to feed the family.

Students in the grades 4-8 take what they have learned back to the classroom and teachers incorporate it into their lessons to be written into stories and shared with others either on bulletin boards or in their journals and other subject areas. The kindergartens have shared their experiences of the outdoor education program through illustrations that tell their stories through the way they know how and we are very proud to say they sure know how to express their feelings of joy and happiness.



Some of the students' experiences have been transferred back to the classroom from what they have learned through hands on such as cutting and packing of meat that is stored in the freezers as well as learning body parts of the animals, where to hunt, when to hunt, what to hunt during season. Identifying the animal's tracks, identifying animals by Ojibway names, identifying where the animals live and or migrate, classifying animals as herbivores, omnivores, or carnivores. Students study the animals throughout the curriculum and are taught to respect all living things: plants, animals, water, and all forms of life.

"The grade 8, Mrs. Bradshaw has been incorporating outdoor Ed in writing activities (expository writing and reflections). They will be using the snowshoeing information that Mr.G included in his lesson with their Heart Rate Science Lesson in our Blood, Heart and Circulation that they are now in the middle of. They will also be doing math lessons with calculating steps and comparing it with pedometers when we are out for our field trip snowshoeing at Flat Lake. They also do an identifying animal tracks activity during this field trip. Students are to take pictures of tracks while snowshoeing the trail. When we return, we use those pictures and research skills to identify the tracks."

We have the grade 3 teachers incorporating what they've experienced and taken their learning back to class to draw what they've seen and write the Ojibway words to label their artwork.

Miss Mackedensky has taken her class for nature walks exploring the surroundings and studying plants and trees in the area. They have gone berry picking (chokecherries) for berry crushing done upon returning to the school or just to enjoy a good nutritious snack. We remind students of some the teachings we grew up on that you never drink milk with chokecherries because the milk causes constipation. The students have shared their berries with the rest of the school or just take them home to enjoy later.

Students have looked at and discussed the different types of birds in the area; listened to sounds of animals they may hear in the area including domesticated animals such as horse or cows in the nearby pastures. Naming birds and animals using their Ojibway names. There are so many learning opportunities that can take place with the outdoor education/Land-Based learning program. It is an opportunity that staff and students are learning and sharing this experience together. Being outside the classroom has been an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Learning through the outdoor education and land-based program has been such an enjoyment for students, elders and staff. They will take with them a lifetime of memories and skills to hold, cherish and share with others.

With that I will close my part of the presentation.

Megwetch

Mrs. Marellia Cote

Interim Principal

WCS



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