

# BE THE CHANGE

## 2019-2020

**Be the Change** students began the year with a powerful, united voice. Initially, the few became



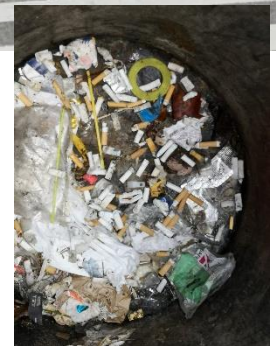
the many! A few students joined to walk on a Greta Thunberg designated 'School Strike Day' holding hand-made information signs about the need to care for the climate and for our planet. They walked up and down main street becoming visible 'educators' of the general public.



These students became the many as several classes from our school joined them two weeks later on another designated



'School Strike Day' personally dubbing it 'Climate Awareness Day'. Students gathered to join the Creston Climate group as signs were held, chants were chanted and songs were song. Students also put their words into action walking the main street once again and this time picking up litter along the way!





Our annual food drive during the Halloween 'We Scare Hunger' campaign was a huge success and much appreciated by our local food bank, The Gleaners, when we arrived on their doorsteps with boxes of canned foods to donate!

Fundraising for our goal of \$2000 began in earnest. Mini fundraisers such as



a movie night, student made bannock sales, cupcake sales and craft sales began in the Fall and continued through until March. A huge success was our student made crafts sold during our school Christmas Concert! The theme was repurposing – homemade gift name tags made from birch



bark, old picket fences becoming signs and true works of art, reusable cloth bags, preserves, knit scarves, WE rafiki bracelets, student made birdhouses and many other items. Donations from the public were generous beyond belief!



With the hope of spreading some good cheer and kindness, students went caroling at two of our local seniors' homes before the Christmas Break.

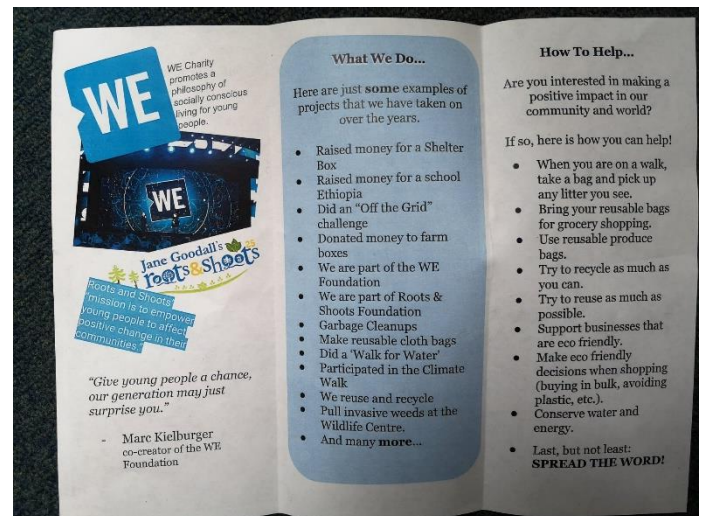
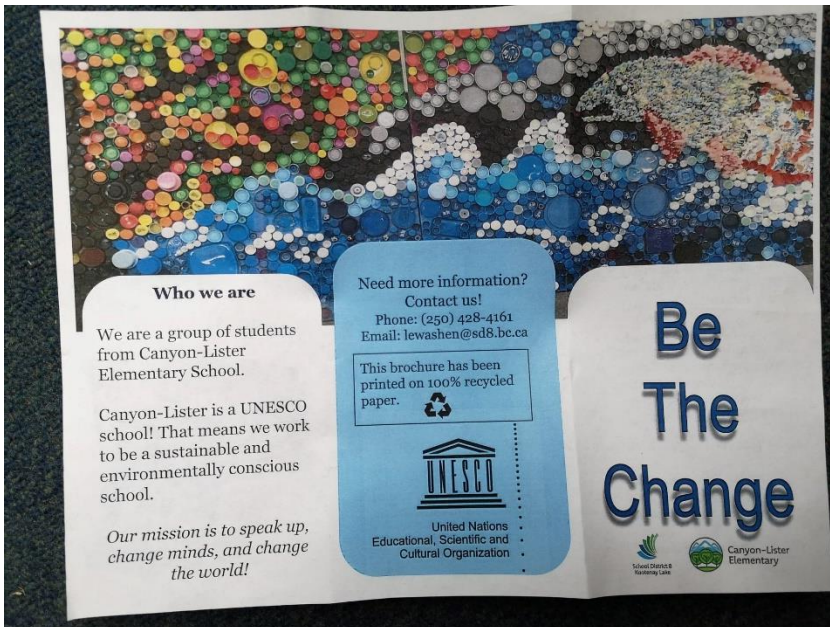


Songs were sung as hallways were travelled, performances

were held in foyers and dining rooms. Hugs were given out everywhere and tears of kindness were shared amongst us all.



Students also spent time packing Christmas Food Hampers, an event organized by the local Ministerial Society, to provide food and toys to hundreds of families in the valley over the holidays. We joined in with many helping hands.



After a snowy, fun filled holiday, students were back to work. During the months of January and February a 'Be the Change' brochure was designed by our students. Plastic fact cards were also designed listing 10 facts about plastic on one side and 10 (11) questions about plastic on the other.





These brochures and fact cards were handed out to the general public during a visit to our local grocery store. Save On Foods welcomed us to put up tables displaying our brochures, information cards and reusable cloth bags. These handmade bags were given out for free to anyone in the produce section reaching for a plastic bag to put their few fruits or vegetables into. Outside in the parking lot another group of students were busy picking up litter

and learning about how easily all of this waste just travels down the drains directly into our water systems. Overall, a hugely productive day!!! The local newspaper heard of our efforts and even featured us as worth news story!



Then came COVID 19. Our plans to sing during a local youth festival were no more. Our plans to pull invasive plant species in our local wetland sanctuary became a plan for the future. HOWEVER, there are still small, but powerful ripples of activity occurring. The Shelter Box for \$1200 was purchased!!! Our fundraising goal had been achieved and the provision of a home for a family in need became a reality!



On Earth Day, litter was again picked up. It seems such a simple thing, but the need is real! Litter was picked up, art was created, Maison bee homes were built (Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots website) and Earth Day was celebrated outside of the classroom! Students that participated, sent in pictures and a Google Slide Show was created. (Please refer to Mrs. Ewashen's Google Classroom.)

The year isn't quite over yet, but for now, taking a step back to review the year is a good way to reflect on everyone's achievements and possibly inspire new ways to create positive change next year. 'Small Hands Can Change The World'! I am so proud of each and every one of you! Continue being kind!!!

Take good care and we hope to see everyone very soon!

Mrs. E.