

AROUND P.G.

www.pgcitizen.ca



A new year at **École Austin Road** means the beginning of the Ready, Set, Learn Program, Twins and Backwards Day, and the first PAC meeting of the year. The littlest people to ever attend Austin arrived at the library at 9 a.m. Friday. About a dozen wide-eyed students with their parents and siblings gathered in a circle at the back book corner of the library to listen to Ready, Set, Learn teacher Jane read a book. Wednesday gave way to the action-packed School Spirit Day, Twins and Backwards Day, and the first PAC meeting of the year.

All Grade 8 students at **Heather Park** middle school were able to watch one of two performances by Andrew Burton's Street Spirits Theatre Company. Burton describes such productions as "social action" theatre and uses interactive performances to raise awareness and generate solutions to real world, real life problems. Street Spirits presentations are about drug and alcohol use, family violence, racism, poverty, peer pressure, homophobia and any other topic that might arise.

Glenview elementary school will begin their own version of Survivor Africa starting this week. Two teams of eight Grade 4/5 students will form the Inti Tribe (Sun God) and the Kon Tribe (Rain and Wind God), under the direction of teachers Mrs. Raby and Mrs. Gurney. Each Friday afternoon, teams will compete in a variety of challenges that will require teamwork. Rose Thomas of the Carrier Language Program is visiting Glenview this week. Every student will make a traditional aboriginal craft. There will also be storytelling and traditional dancing. Prince George Spruce Kings visited Glenview this week for a spirited floor hockey game organized by the PAC. The visit was the result of Glenview school being the winner of the Cheer Off at the Nov. 30 Spruce Kings game.

The skating program continues at **Sacred Heart** school. Participation in downhill and cross-country skiing is being planned for February. The Grade 2/3 class will visit the Two Rivers Art Gallery this week. Sacred Heart is accepting registrations for kindergarten students for the 2009-10 school year. Information packages can be picked up at the school office (250-563-5201). The next movie night is planned for Jan. 23. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bring your pillows and lawn chairs.

Mrs. Corrin, school librarian at **Hart Highlands** elementary, formed a knitting club help make blankets for the Save the Children Foundation. The students met every Friday to knit and even some parents and grandparents helped out. In the end, the students had enough squares to make three blankets, which are very warm. We were very happy to help children in other countries stay warm in the winter.

Duchess Park secondary's Entrepreneurship 12 class worked hard to bring "Carnival" to the student and staff. On Wednesday, students were invited to participate in a series of activities at lunch time, including Ducks On Ice, a jelly bean guess, snowball toss, hockey shootout, cake walk, and guitar hero. The proceeds from Carnival are going to a local charity. New to Duchess Park this year is a badminton club.

UNBC hosting Green Day events

Citizen staff

During UNBC's second annual Green Day Jan. 21, a comprehensive green survey will be conducted by students, faculty and staff through voting for green initiatives that matter most to them.

"They could range from better recycling to achieving carbon neutrality," said Dr. Mark Dale, UNBC Provost and chair of UNBC's green committee.

The vote, being held at the Winter Garden, includes nine topic areas for participants to choose from: responsible procurement; waste reduction; recycling & composting; reducing use of fossil fuels and electricity; travel to and from campus; more sustainable food services; achieving carbon neutrality; environmental education and research; water and campus grounds. Results of the survey will help to shape green initiatives during the next few

years, Dale said.

■ At 10 a.m. Dale will host a workshop at the Northern University Student Centre to explore plans to become more green.

■ At noon in the Winter Garden, students for a Green University will announce UNBC's membership in the GoBeyond Program, a network of B.C. colleges and universities aiming to move beyond being carbon-neutral.



Citizen photo by David Mah

Alyssa Clark, the external affairs coordinator at the CNC Student Association, tops up the food bank for students at the new office.

CNC students' union opens new centre

by BERNICE TRICK Citizen staff

The College of New Caledonia Students' Union has finally been able to move its office to the heart of the institution from a small fringe area that was difficult to find.

The new office, opened Wednesday, is near the atrium, the book store and other student services.

"This space, with new carpet, paint and sliding doors, is about two-thirds bigger than what we had,

with room for three desks and our student food bank," said Alyssa Clark, external affairs co-ordinator for the student union.

The transition office, with about \$5,000 of improvements, was provided by the college at no expense to the student union.

Valentine Crawford, chair of the Students' Union, said the new location will provide needed visibility and awareness "that we exist."

"It will give the students a greater

sense that they are a vital part of the college," Crawford said.

The transition office, providing an additional 190 square feet of space, is only a temporary measure until the planned Student and Cultural Centre is built as an addition to CNC. The student union has \$750,000 available to build the new centre in the near future, and there is hope of further funds from both the provincial and federal governments.

The new centre, estimated at \$6

million, will contain student-owned and operated businesses like a pub and coffee shops, Students' Union offices, areas for study and events, and First Nations, international student and multi-faith centres.

CNC president John Bowman said the development of the new centre is a top priority with CNC.

"This transition office is a temporary arrangement, but it will enhance the work of the Students' Union."

Boudreau to kick off Divine Brown show

by CHRISTINE SKOREPA Citizen staff

Local singer/songwriter Dawn Boudreau, will be opening for soul singer Divine Brown at the Prince George Playhouse Jan. 30.

Boudreau, who has been singing jazz since 2000, said, as she rehearsed in her studio at the back of her house, that she is excited and honoured to be the local opening act for Brown. Boudreau said she wanted a good back-up sound and immediately thought to ask her talented friends, drummer Max Jones and Justin Frey on saxophone.

"Both Max and Justin are easy to work with and excellent musicians," said Boudreau.

Boudreau will be doing a 20-minute set, with Sean Jones following her, and then Divine Brown will finish the show. Sean Jones is a singer who performs indie-soul-over-rock songs, and has just released his debut collection of heart-wrenching love songs called This is Love.

Boudreau has decided to do original songs dur-

ing her set, as well as some special arrangements. Boudreau describes her sound as jazz-pop and her usual tone is quite mellow. She just wrote a song called Free.

"This song is more up-tempo than anything I've ever written before," said Boudreau, who will perform the song when she opens for Brown.

Boudreau, who has been teaching voice one-on-one for seven years, started doing solo performances at venues such as The Waddling Duck, and recently released her latest CD, Love from the Piano Bar.

"I'm glad the show is at the Playhouse," she said. "It's quite intimate in there so it's going to be a great show."

Divine Brown is known for her impressive vocal range and influenced by the likes of Tina Turner, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin and a host of Motown greats.

Tickets are \$22.50 and are available at Studio 2880, 2880-15th Avenue, or by calling 250-563-2880.



Citizen file photo

Dawn Boudreau, local singer/songwriter, will be opening for Divine Brown when she performs at the Prince George Playhouse Jan. 30.

Parishioners building home for orphaned kids in Uganda

by SCOTT STANFIELD Citizen staff

Several Prince George residents are doing what they can to make life a little brighter for eight orphaned children living in an African village.

Twelve people from the Hart Pentecostal Church will spend the latter part of March con-

structing a home for the children and a house mother in a Ugandan village.

Aside from having a roof over their heads, a house can help prevent the children from becoming "ex-child soldiers," says Veronica Saul, the group's fund-raising co-ordinator.

"I can't even talk about it, it's overwhelming," said Saul, who departs March 16 for Uganda,

along with her husband Scot and the rest of the missionaries. "It just pulls your heart."

This will be the second Prince George delegation to undertake missionary work in Uganda. The church is hosting a dinner/silent auction Feb. 7 to raise funds that will help send the Wato Building Team to Africa.

Tickets are \$20 each.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner is 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker is Chris Opio, chair of the Northern Uganda Development Foundation.

The church is located at 6912 Hart Highway, next to the Hart Pioneer Centre.

For more information, call the church at 962-7407 or Saul at 962-6278.

Thank you from the Northern Lights Festival 2008

To all our sponsors and volunteers who made this holiday event a success!!

