

Walk to lake and back by Williamson Road students part of World Water Day



Students from Williamson Road Junior Public School took part in a World Water Day event on Friday, March 22. The students walked from their school to the lake to fill buckets of water and then carry those full buckets back to the school. Photo by Rushanthi Kesunathan.

By RUSHANTHI KESUNATHAN

A local elementary school's students went on a water walk, buckets in tow and shouting 'Save more water!' hoping to highlight the importance of having access to fresh water.

To recognize World Water Day on Friday, March 22, about 125 students from Williamson Road Junior Public School walked to Kew Beach and then back to school having collected buckets of water.

"It's just that act of putting them in someone else's shoes and thinking of what others have to do and raising awareness that we don't all have access to clean water," Meghan Williams, a Grade 2 teacher at the school, said.

The school is a platinum level eco-school where students learn and help lead initiatives for ecological awareness.

Walk for Water was created by the school's eco-club, while learning about water and how those in developing countries, mostly women and girls, must walk for hours to get water. The students also learned the two First Nations Grandmothers who walked the perimeter of the Great Lakes to raise awareness for their water issues.

Friday's walk by the Williamson Road students was symbolic of the walk people have to do on a daily basis just to access water, Williams said.

When students learned many First Nations communities in Canada don't have access to clean water, they decided to raise money for the First Nations charity Water First, she said.

"And, part of this walk is to bring awareness into the community as well," Williams said.

Students have also written letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and different levels of government on the issue.

Pippa Kennedy and Eve Murray are Grade 3 students who said the walk felt real and hard.

“It takes a long time to walk here and back for water and I can’t imagine people have to walk this distance to just to get a bucket of water,” Kennedy said.

“I feel lucky that we have water and we use a lot of it today,” Murray said.

Meanwhile, two Grade 6 students who are very passionate about the environment wrote a rap song about global warming as a part of a class project.

Allie Wilson and Julia Ebli, recorded the song at Indie 88’s recording studio and will send it to American talk show host, Ellen DeGeneres.



World Water Day was first established in 1993 by the United Nations.

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