Grandpals Day 2018

On April 20, 2018, we held our first ever “Grandpals” event at Jackman ICS. Students, teachers, and faculty of the Lab School welcomed grandparents (and other special older adults) to take part in a celebration honouring these individuals and the special place they have in the lives of our Lab School children. On behalf of the children, we would like to thank our Grandpals event visitors for spending time with us, and for all that they do to support the development of the children. To us, growing and learning among caring individuals who share widely divergent life stories, and appreciating their respective cultures and experiences is an invaluable aspect of a true education.

Grandpals Day was highly anticipated by the children, made clear by the smiles on their faces and how delighted they were to share their school with their grandparent/s and special pal/s. We are thrilled to extend this newsletter to those who were able to join us, and look forward to inviting you back to next year’s Grandpals event!

"I liked when my Nana and Papa came because I got to show them my classroom and they got to draw with me there. Before that, they watched a slideshow and listened to Richard talk about all the things we like to do with our grandparents. It was a really nice day."

- Sophia, Grade 3.
“We planned this event to celebrate the special place that ‘Grandpals’ have in the lives of JICS children,” said Amy Cheung and Aweit Siyum, Volunteer Coordinators at Jackman ICS. “Grandpals Day isn’t just for grandparents. A Grandpal could be a great aunt or uncle, a caregiver or any special adult in a child’s life. Growing and learning among all these caring individuals is what the day meant to honour.”

Many Grandpals shared kind words about their observations during the visit, such as the beautiful assembly with children and teachers in our J. Fraser Mustard Assembly Hall, the building tours, and having the opportunity to take part in classroom discussions.

“We have watched our grandson grow, thrive and learn at ICS and then JICS. Beginning in Nursery, he and his fellow classmates have had quite a journey ... in the “old” building and now ... the magnificent new one ... with such dedicated staff. Thanks for inviting us to the special Grandpals programme. Seeing the staff and students working together for the presentation ... all with smiles and enthusiasm ... made us feel so involved and welcome. Please convey to the staff and parent volunteers how much we appreciated the get together... and all the hard work that made it happen. Looking forward to Music Night!”

-Jackman ICS Grandpal who attended the event

The Grandpals event would not have been possible without the tireless volunteer work and dedicated commitment of many JICS parents, teachers, and staff. Together, we work on an ongoing basis to create a secure learning environment that inspires exploration, creativity, curiosity, and confidence to flourish. We honour diversity and value a deeply interconnected community, in which all members feel known, respected, and supported as active participants.

We welcome all visitors who were able to attend Grandpals day to return for a visit any time, and look forward to you coming back to next year’s Grandpals day event. In the meantime, if you wish to know more about the Lab School, please do not hesitate to be in touch.