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## Kiwanis Club of Brantford Newsletter December 19, 2024

1 message

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**Kiwanis Office** <kiwanisbrantford@149805790.mailchimpapp.com>

Mon, Dec 16, 2024 at 5:29 AM

Reply-To: kiwanisbrantford@gmail.com

To: davegslewis@gmail.com

[View this email in your browser](#)



### **A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER from and about THE KIWANIS CLUB OF BRANTFORD**

**Meeting at the Best Western Brantford Hotel & Conference Centre:  
Every Thursday at 12:00 noon**

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**Current Membership – 43**



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**E.C. & C. District**

*Governor*

Pamela Rodney White  
KC of Constant Spring

*Governor Elect*

Cynthina Blackman  
KC of Pride of Barbados

*Immediate Past Governor*

John Chave  
KC of Barrie

*Secretary/Treasurer*

Jim Steele

### **PROGRAM FOR December 19, 2024**

Kiwanis Christmas Party

### **HEAD TABLE**

Place cards will be written for the two head tables

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, December 19 – Kiwanis Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 26 – NO MEETING

Thursday, January 2 – Round Table Discussion

Thursday, January 9 – TBD

Thursday, January 16 – Tim Phelps – AI and Assisted Living

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KC of Brantford

Thursday, January 23 – Peter Tudisco – Wine Business

*Division Lt. Governor*

Angel Vieth

KC of Kitchener–Waterloo

## **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

Kiwanis social getaway event to the Oban Inn February 7th and 8th. Carpooling available. Please confirm that you have your reservation to Pallo.

Club Officers

*President*

Nancy Thompson

## **KIWANIS CONVENTIONS**

Eastern Canada & Caribbean District Convention – Niagara Falls, May 29 to 31, 2025

*Past President*

Alfred Hauk

Kiwanis International Convention – Pittsburgh, June 25 to 28–2025

*President–Elect*

Maureen Henry

## **BIRTHDAYS**

*Treasurer*

Jim Steele

Joanne Murray – Birthday – December 19

*Secretary*

Dave Lewis

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Club Directors

None

*2 Year Term*

Ross Pope

Joanne Murray

## **ANNIVERSARIES OF DATE JOINED**

*1 Year Term*

Randy MacKenzie

Leo Vos

Bob Wade

None

## **EDUCATIONAL SPOT**

Monies received by Kiwanis clubs from fund–raising projects in which the public participates or from members or others for service activities sponsored by the club must be segregated from the administrative funds of the club and used only for the club’s service activities. Only the actual costs of the fund–raising activity can be charged to the service account. Nor can interest earned by the service account be transferred to the administrative account. All nonservice operating costs of the club must be charged to an administrative account, which is funded by member dues and fees.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement" — Helen Keller.

## Highlights of the Thursday, 12 November, 2024 Weekly Meeting

President Nancy, welcomed all members and Guests; Janet Jordan, Rick Klunder and Kelly Bruels and Guest Speakers from 6 - School Principals who will be introduced more appropriately later in the program.

Graham Schram started the 50/50 draw, with Peter Liberati and Dave Lewis holding potential winning tickets, however neither one picked the Joker from the available cards. The pot continues to grow.



Funmaster Pallo Sahota came to the Podium with some short humorous offerings slightly relating to Teachers.

E.g.

- Why did the cow win an award? **Answer:** For being outstanding in its field.
- Why was the Fraction skeptical about the decimal? **Answer:** Because he would have to convert.
- Why was the Geometry Book so adorable? **Answer:** Because it had acute angles.
- You get the idea!



Pallo had a few more semi-groaners and received a due round of applause.

She moved on to announcements: Ivone DeMarchi – Joined - December 14, He has been a member for 46 years and Jim Steele – Birthday is on December 11. An hearty round of applause was made on their behalf.

Dave Lewis came to the Microphone and Introduced the speakers from eight Core Schools of Brantford and asked that they briefly describe how they are using the Funds received from the Kiwanis/Staples Back to School Drive in Sept 2024.

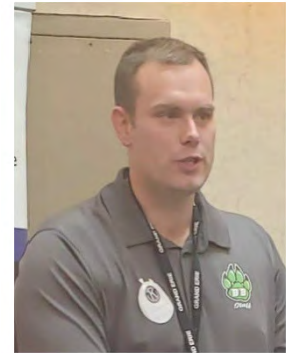
He noted that in the past 6 years, since we partnered with the Brantford Staples Store with the Back-to-School project, we have been able to pass on, over \$32,000 to the core schools of our Community to the Principals of a selected group of schools. We have been able to give them funds to address the needs of children in their schools that have the greatest need. Each year we ask the Principals to let us know at a meeting like this, how these fund are helping those students in need.

Dave then asked each Principal to stand and identify themselves and their school. Following their introductions, each school was asked to give a brief outline of the ways in which the funds they have received are being used to help their students.

Following are the comments of each of the Principals / Vice Principals in order of presentation.

- James Medway VP of Bellvue Public School

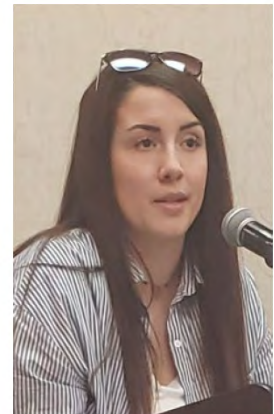
James indicated that since joining Bellvue it has been experiencing a lot of growth and we have received a lot of student enrollments. We are very fortunate to have students join us from a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. I feel our community is special because we are given a unique opportunity to both learn and celebrate our rich cultural diversity of all our diverse families and students. James said this diversity leads to situations that are more prevalent now in our community.



We are seeing, chaos in the home environment that can negatively impact a child's social-emotional development in many settings.” We are now using a “Shanker SelfReg” program which is a process, for enhancing self-regulation by understanding and dealing with stress. In the Self-Reg program, we consider both our responses to stress and our underlying state of energy and tension when we encounter a stress. The school has set up a “Calming” area and a “Cozy Corner” to give students under stress, a quiet, isolated area to allow them time to centre themselves and not be threatened.

- Cora Hammond Principal ~ Princess Elizabeth Public School

Cora echoed some of the same challenges as James. The children’s social-emotional condition based on their home and the country they have recently emigrated from, greatly affect their ability to learn and interact with others. This is particularly difficult if English is not their 1<sup>st</sup> language.

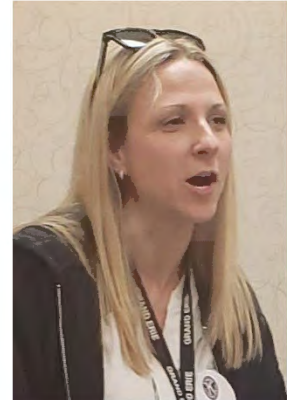


We have spent money on key boards, mice and headphone to be used with existing Ipads. The headphones cancel-out background noise and allow the children to work at their own pace, often hear a language that they are familiar with. We have bought crafts that the younger students can use to held with their fine motor skills and help control their frustration. We have recently obtained the Brave Buddies Program which has a unique approach to helping children with selective mutism overcome anxiety and speak publicly. It is designed to help children ages 3–12, diagnosed with selective mutism, to overcome their anxiety and speak in any setting. Brave Buddies® is offered as a multi-day intensive program twice a year, or as one-day sessions several times throughout the school year.

- Ali Cole Principal ~ Major Ballachey Public School

Ali said that they are also using the Brave Buddies Program and have the same, “social-emotional development” problems since their school has a similar student demographic. They are also faced with many older children, possibly because of Covid, who are not aware how to play and how to react socially with other children or adults. They are very anxious and unsure of themselves and have quite volatile reactions.

We now have calming areas and relaxation tools such as spinners, Kinetic sand and several other tools.



- Katie Terpstra Principal ~ Graham Bell -Victoria Public School

Katie Has had to start in this school by creating and rebuilding a school culture that has been lost over time. From the children’s perspective it was not part of the community, they didn’t have morning announcements. They are in the process of rebuilding with the 7-8 grade now participating the Live announcements each morning. The students of the school are now part of the Griffon Family. Monthly, we reflect on one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Love, Respect, Bravery, Truth, Humility, Honesty and Wisdom. The student’s scores for this school were quite low.

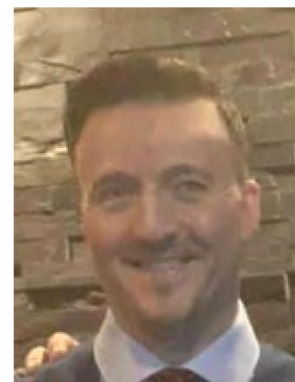
We are now using headphones to help the student to cut-out back ground noise and allow them to focus. This reduces behavioural problems and allow them to self regulate. The headphones also, help a great deal when we can help those where English is not their 1<sup>st</sup> language.



- Derek Cheriére ~ Centennial-Grand Woodlands School

Derek Indicated that the children’s social-emotional development is present in his school as well. They have been taking steps to address it and through the fund the Kiwanis Club has supplied they are now using head phones, microphones, Lego, Educational game, calculators and several other tools. Children can no longer use phones a school.

The biggest incentive we use, is to try to be; attentive to the children’s needs and to treat them with kindness and teach the children to be kind to each other.



David Mcgaghran ~ Cainsville School

David confirmed the occurrence of anxiety, instability, lack of social awareness in students in his school and indicated that they have taken similar actions that the other schools have. The new Canadian's children from other cultures and families that do not speak English are of course anxious, confused, and react spontaneously.

We have responded as well with the use of the Brave Buddy Program, have build a Learning Commons area and now have STEM programs to expand the opportunities to focus their attention.



- Anh Hoang Vice Principal ~ Central Public School

Unfortunately, Anh Hoang nor Dina Atanas could not attend the meeting today but sent us an email with a note thank for the funds they received and how they had used then. Some of the funds were used for Head phone due to the same circumstances indicated by the Principals at this meeting.

These files will be sent to all member by email for reference.

- Cheryl Bannister Principal ~ King George Elementary School

Unfortunately, Cheryl Bannister was not able to attend today as this was their Holiday Concert on this date. Cheryl did however send an email outline and some pictures with some children involved.

Following is and excerpt of her outline.

“Thank you so much for selecting our school as a recipient of “The Back-to-School Project 2024”. We are so appreciative of your donation.

Our school has a new program as of this year, known as “The Skills Hub.” We are working with students to build skills in various areas of the curriculum, including language, fine motor, and social skills, among many others.

Our startup funds were very limited, and your donation has allowed us to purchase many amazing items to assist our students in learning and building their skills. From your donation, we were able to purchase games and craft kits, to teach working with others and turn taking during our recess clubs, headphones to allow students better access to assistive technology for reading and writing, fine motor skills games and learning activities to promote development and conversation cards to develop and teach the skills of navigating social expectations and situations (see attached photos). Your contribution will make a significant impact on improving accessibility and providing necessary tools for success in all areas. Once again, thank you for your kindness and investment in our students and their learning. We are honoured to be the recipients of your community-based initiatives.”

It must be noted that each Principal/Vice Principal thanked the Kiwanis Club of Brantford and Staples generously for our support with this program helping their schools for the benefit of the children in this community.

We also had an impromptu speaker, Kelly, Staples Divisional Sales Manager. She had joined us to listen to the response from the School's Principals and Vice Principals about the Back to School Project. When she stood to speak, she was quite emotional about thanking the members of Kiwanis and the Schools for our part in helping the children in need in our community.

Kiwanian Phil officially thanked all the speakers for their thorough explanation of the changes and adaptations required each year to accommodate new changes with each school year.

President Nancy called for Committee Reports and Announcements

- Phil Hoekstra announced that the sign-up sheets for the Christmas Luncheon, Thursday 19 December were on each table today with the Final Head count required by Friday 13-Dec-2024
- Bob Saunders, advised everyone that Christmas Cookies Campaign had ended and all product had been sold for a profit of about \$5,000.
- A reminder was made that Warm Socks would have a final collection Thursday 19-December.
- Pallo reminded us of the Oban Inn in Niagara-on-the-lake Get-away. It is on 7-8 February, 1- or 2-nights accommodation. Each couple is to register independently and soon, to ensure we have a good contingent, to get our rooms close together. Web site <https://oban.com/contact.php> Phone # 1-866-359-6226
- Maureen Henry presented a short Slide Wrap up to the members that the Youth Writers Contest and Awards had been a great success and we would be working to renew the Project for 2025.
- President Nancy noted that Kiwanis had received a Christmas Card and letter from the Children's Safety Village of Brant thanking us for our continued support. A copy of this Email will be sent out to all members.

Final Thought for the Day

"One of the best things to come out of the home computer revolution could be the general and widespread understanding of how severely limited logic really is." Frank Herbert

Thank You to all members and Guests have a great weekend.

If there is nothing else for the good of Kiwanis, we will adjourn this meeting with the ringing of the bell. Have a great weekend.

Following are some candid pictures from this meeting Following by a Thank You letters from the CSV and Two schools could not appear in person but sent text and pictures. They are from Central Public School and King George School .







December 01, 2024



### Season's Greetings!

During this Christmas season, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your support of The Children's Safety Village of Brant. The Children's Safety Village has been a place where a generation of children have greatly improved their Fire and Personal Safety knowledge. Since opening in September 2005, we have had over 100,000 student visits for our various Grades K-8 Police and Fire Safety programs. We have also been the host site for training most of the local School Safety Patrollers each year.

We host two annual community events, Halloween in the Village and the Easter Egg Hunt. These events are our main source of community fundraising efforts and community engagement. Members of the public are invited to bring their families and explore the Village while experiencing a fun and safe environment for their children. Our recent Halloween event held on October 26, 2024, had approximately 2,500 community members in attendance while our Easter event held on March 30, 2024, had over 2,100 in attendance. Our events would not be possible without the help of our incredible sponsors, supporters, donors and volunteers.

As we close the year and start the new, we appreciate the privilege of serving Brantford, Brant County, The Six Nations of The Grand River and Norfolk County by offering a welcoming and interactive learning place for children, and adults, from these communities. We also are pleased to support Autism Dog Services of Brant by providing a training/instructional facility for their use.

Thank you again for your support this year! Your contributions have helped us to keep our facilities in operation to benefit the communities that we serve.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!

kindest regards,



Dr. Leo Vos

**Board President**

*The Children's Safety Village of Brant*

407 Elgin Street, Brantford ON N3S 7P5

[www.brantsafetyvillage.ca](http://www.brantsafetyvillage.ca)

519-720-6950

Charitable # : **862146123 RR0001**



# Central Public School

135 George Street, Brantford, ON N3T 6B4

519-752-8819

Dear Kiwanis Club of Brantford,

Thank you for choosing Central School to make a difference through your donation. With your generous support, we were able to purchase headphones for our students. Headphones are an invaluable tool for our school because our teachers can now create more individualized learning environments for their students. For example, with headphones teachers can facilitate quiet, safe, and less stressful learning environments by making accommodations based on student's learning styles and their ability to access learning at their own pace and in their first language without distracting others. By providing students with headphones, we will see an improvement in focus, grades, test scores and engagement in meaningful learning.

Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. We could not do it without donors like you- thank you!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts,

Central School



Principal Dina Atanas and Vice Principal Ank Hoang  
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts



# King George School

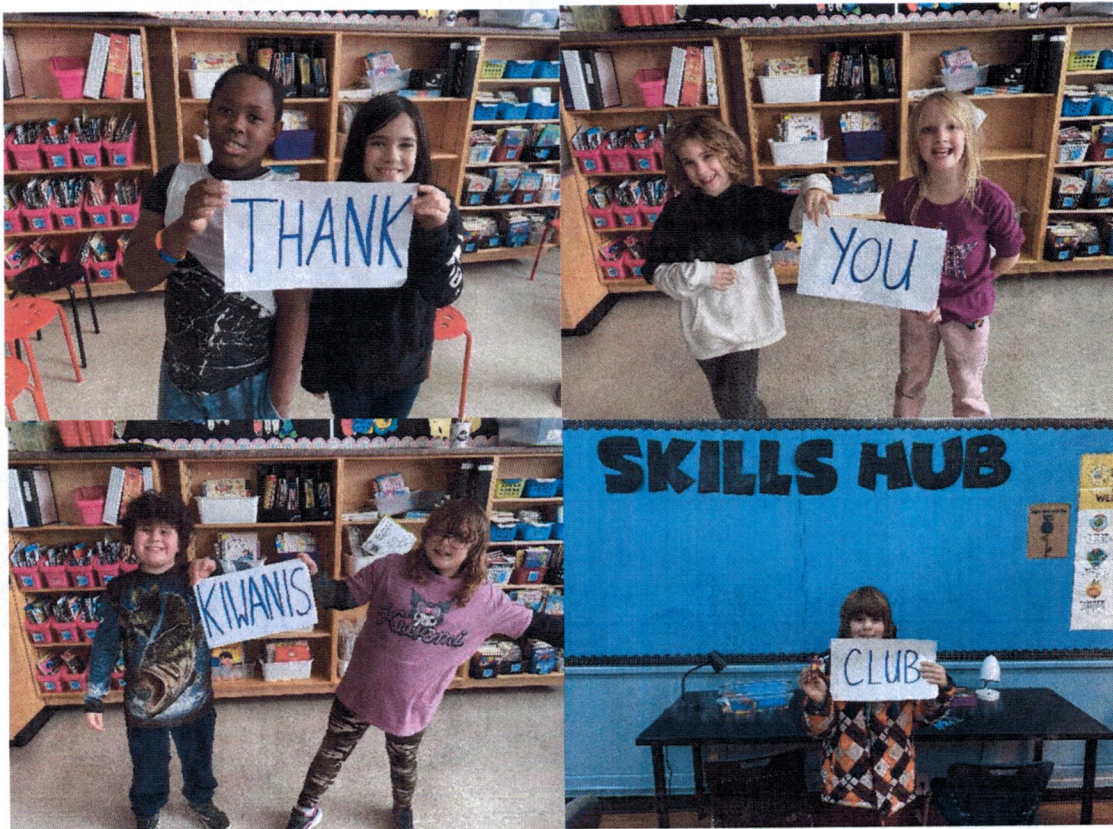
265 Rawdon Street, Brantford, ON N3S 6G7  
(519) 752-7486 Fax: 519-752-1015 [www.granderie.ca/kinggeorge](http://www.granderie.ca/kinggeorge)

Dear Kiwanis Club of Brantford,

Thank you so much for selecting our school as a recipient of “The Back-to-School Project 2024”. We are so appreciative of your donation. Our school has a new program as of this year, known as “The Skills Hub.” We are working with students to build skills in various areas of the curriculum, including language, fine motor, and social skills, among many others. Our startup funds were very limited, and your donation has allowed us to purchase many amazing items to assist our students in learning and building their skills. From your donation, we were able to purchase games and craft kits, to teach working with others and turn taking during our recess clubs, headphones to allow students better access to assistive technology for reading and writing, fine motor skills games and learning activities to promote development and conversation cards to develop and teach the skills of navigating social expectations and situations (see attached photos). Your contribution will make a significant impact on improving accessibility and providing necessary tools for success in all areas. Once again, thank you for your kindness and investment in our students and their learning. We are honoured to be the recipients of your community-based initiatives.

From,

The Staff and Students at King George School





# King George School

265 Rawdon Street, Brantford, ON N3S 6G7  
(519) 752-7486 Fax: 519-752-1015 [www.granderie.ca/kinggeorge](http://www.granderie.ca/kinggeorge)

