

FEATURE of the WEEK

Parc's Pantry

A few years ago, Natalie Moore, the resource teacher at Parc La Salle School in St. Norbert, was responsible for acquiring food from Winnipeg Harvest for their breakfast program. When COVID-19 struck, it became apparent that a number of the families were struggling with food security, so food that was accessed through Winnipeg Harvest was made available by delivery.

The school and the Parent Council thought it might be a good idea to take this process one step further. A survey was developed to determine the extent of the need for support. The results of the survey revealed a need for further assistance.

The following year, Natalie established "Parc's Pantry." She was able to find space in the Parc La Salle School library to store and display all the items. The purpose of this initiative was to be more inclusive and serve a wider range of families.



From the Left: Derek Marvin, Natalie Moore, Barb Moir, Linda Haddad & Katlyn Lawrie

For the last couple of years, Natalie and the school team, have created a local, accessible place where families and community members can obtain food essentials, hygiene products, clothing, and other necessities.

As the program continues to grow, so does the need for volunteers. Right now, for example, Linda Haddad, a local community member, volunteers biweekly to drive to Winnipeg Harvest to pick up food and deliver it to the school; various staff members assist during the pantry's open hours. The program's success is due to collaboration among community members, PAC, staff, and students. Truly an example of "It takes a village."

The school team has worked tirelessly to collect donations and obtain grants to fill the pantry's shelves. Fridges and freezers were donated. They've received tremendous unwavering financial support from the Community, and local businesses such as St. Norbert Co-op, Giant Tiger, and Winnipeg Harvest who have been contributing to the pantry in various ways. Just recently, the Pantry has been relocated from the library to a spare classroom to provide more room to grow.

The efforts of Parc's Pantry have been recognized in the legislative assembly by MLA Billie Cross for supporting families in the Parc La Salle School Community.

“
 Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
 Margaret Mead
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