



MARIO BARTEL/NEWSLEADER

Lorenzo De Bei and Elizabeth Bilawey are two of the students in Donna Perrotta's Grade 1 class at St. Helen's School in Burnaby, who created books about what kindness means to them, which they will give to people they feel could use a little kindness.

Student-published book is for those needing kindness

BY WANDA CHOW
NewsLeader

The acts of kindness of a St. Helen's School teacher live on despite his own untimely passing.

When Grade 7 teacher Gianfranco Giammaria heard about the Conspiracy program, he was "really excited" to introduce it to his class as he had always been interested in the concept of "paying it forward," said Donna Perrotta, a Grade 1 teacher at the school.

But then on Dec. 30, Giammaria, a 35-year-old father of three, died suddenly of a heart attack.

The school wanted to pass the project on to somebody, so Perrotta's class decided to take it on.

The Conspiracy program, developed by the non-profit KindActs Network Association of B.C., encourages students to do good deeds for themselves, the environment, and for someone else. The recipients of the latter also receive a gold coin and are encouraged to not pay it back but to "pay it forward," doing the same for others who then receive the coin and carry on the favours.

In Burnaby, the Rotary Club of Burnaby Metrotown purchased 10 Conspiracy kits for local schools, including St. Helen's.

Perrotta's class was just learning to read,

so that helped the students decided what to do.

"We read lots of Robert Munsch books, we wanted to make our own book," said six-year-old Lorenzo De Bei.

Each of the 26 students in the class was in charge of one page where they created artwork that described what kindness meant to them. Inspired by a book on happiness they saw, and Eric Carle books, they used the collage art technique, in which pictures are made using shapes cut out of construction paper.

"We did [each page] on our own, but when we were finished we could help somebody else," said De Bei, whose picture depicted "kindness is raking leaves for a neighbour."

Classmate Elizabeth Bilawey, 6, did "kindness is giving a card."

When they were done, Mike Berrettoni, the father of one classmate and an employee of business equipment company Ricoh Canada, donated the printing services needed to produce the books.

Each student will receive one copy which they will pass on to someone they feel needs a dose of kindness.

De Bei said he plans to give it to "my nonno (grandfather) because my nonna (grandmother) died" recently.

Please see **KIND ACTS** on A16

New FHA director named

Appointment makes eight

BY JEFF NAGEL
Black Press

A new director has been named to the Fraser Health Authority's board.

Paul Healey, a Surrey resident and the president of Mr. Lube Canada, has been appointed to a three-year term.

Healey was Bell Canada's president for western Canada and has a background in business and finance, with degrees from McMaster University and the University of Toronto.

He has been active in the United Way and has served as executive director of the B.C. Women's Hospital Foundation.

Healey's appointment fills one of the vacancies created when FHA chair Keith Purchase and director Helen Blackburn resigned earlier this year in a dispute with the provincial government over the adequacy of funding levels.

The board now has eight members, still two short of its traditional complement of 10. That's because one other director's term expired in March.

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