



Santa's Store, an initiative of Vernon's Alexis Park Elementary School, was set up in the gym and allowed students to purchase gifts for Christmas. (Vernon School District photo)

Vernon school opens Santa's Store

Store at Alexis Park Elementary helps students buy gifts for Christmas

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The spirit of giving is alive and well at Vernon's Alexis Park Elementary.

The school is supporting 16 families with food hampers and household items thanks to the donations of students, staff and community members.

"The support we have received from the community at large has been amazing," said Mike Sutch, principal at Alexis Park Elementary. "We had a generous donation of hams from a community member who is very important to our school family. Okanagan Restoration also donated a good supply of pasta and toilet paper."

In addition to the hampers, invited families will also be able to come and purchase some of the extra food donations the school received.

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The giving continued with the opening of Santa's Store.

Located in the school gymnasium, tables were set up by category: mom gifts, dad gifts, jewelry, clothing and general gifts. Students came with their loonies, toonies or canned food donation to purchase gifts for their family members.

Money raised from Santa's Store will go towards the Grade 6 and 7 year-end field trip to Eagle Bay Camp.

Donations of the various gift items came from teachers and members of the community.

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"We are very thankful for all the donations we have received," said Sutch. "This means so much to our students; they'll have food over the winter break and presents under the tree. From a school community perspective, our students get to see how a simple act of a food donation can help support others in need.

"We look forward to continuing with the theme of giving for the remainder of the school year."

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