

# February Newsletter

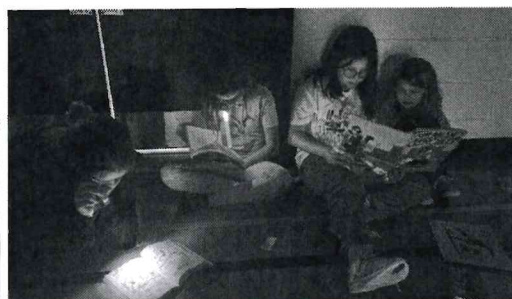
## Austin Elementary School

The AES community raised \$960 to support families in the Central Plains region who are dealing with childhood cancer. In the process, the students had a great time engaging in an hour of various activities together. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser by making a donation or buying a hotdog lunch! A huge thank you goes out to students on the leadership team, who enthusiastically ran a variety of stations during the event.



## Home of the Eagles

I Love to Read Month at AES was a big success again this year with fun activities and contests throughout the month. Flashlight reading in the gym was an extra-big hit! It is wonderful to see a love of reading in many students at AES!



## Manitoba Theatre for Young People —Written by Lydia, Blaike, and Kotaye

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, we went to see a play. The characters are Tad and Birdy. Tad is a tadpole who lives in a jar with water. Birdy is a bird with no tail. Tad wants wings but Birdy did not want Tad to have wings. The story took place in the Big Thing's (human's) room. We liked Tad better than Birdy. Some of it was weird and some of it was funny. We loved the play so much!!!



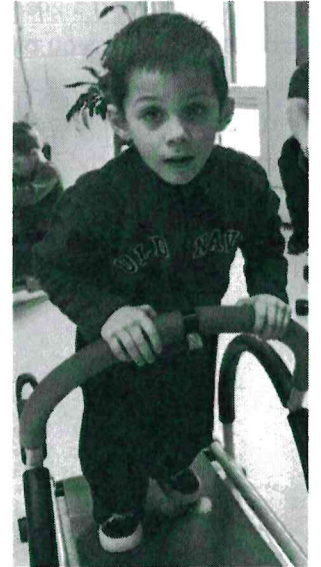
## AES Eagles Curling—By Summer and Harper

This year, grades 6, 7 and 8 had the opportunity to join our school curling team. Coaches Ms. Manns and Mrs. Sheppard coached the team twice a week. Zevah Hodge, Carson Jaeger, Jace Jarvis and Teagan Winters have been on the team for four years. Harper Manns and Summer Key for three, and Sloan Hodge and Holden Lewis for one. We participated in two events this year. The first one was a mini bonspiel in Macgregor. The second was a divisional bonspiel in Plumas. Overall, both teams that participated in the bonspiels did super well, making some amazing shots. Grade 5 also had the opportunity to join curling. They didn't go to any bonspiels but if they play next year, they will join us at bonspiels. Sadly, this was Teagan Winters' last year on the team as she will be in high school next year. She was an amazing player, and we hope she continues to play in high school. Finally, we would like to thank our coaches for all the time they used after school hours to coach our team. Thank you, Ms. Manns and Mrs. Sheppard!!!!



## Angela Bergmann—Author Visit

On Friday, February 20th, Published author Angela Bergmann was a special guest here at A.E.S for I Love to Read Month! The grade 2/3's had prepared over 20 questions for her and here is what we learned. Angela Bergmann began her love of writing in grade 5, thanks to her grade five teacher! She has now been writing for 40 years and has written several books and has published two: "Simon, the Shortest Monster in the World" and "Billy the Beaver Saves Christmas". She does not do her own illustrations. A friend draws for her and several other authors. When asked if she had to go to school to be a writer, she replied she did not! According to her, the easy part is writing a book, but everything after is hard, including waiting, illustrations, layouts and publishing. It takes about a year to publish a book! Her favourite character is Simon! She was asked what inspired her to write, "Simon, the Shortest Monster in the World" and she said that her dad was short and he had said to her that he was a dime among all the pennies! The take away the students had from this wonderful story is that we should try to focus on what we CAN do instead of what we CANNOT do! The grade 2/3's really enjoyed meeting her!



## Donna Gamache—Author Visit

For I Love to Read month, the Grade 5 class was lucky to get a visit from author Donna Firby Gamache. Mrs. Gamache is an author of many books, two of them are Spruce Woods Mystery and Spruce Woods Adventure. Before she started writing she was a teacher but mostly a substitute for many years in Souris, Gladstone, MacGregor and Austin. -Madalyn Dyck

Mrs. Gamache taught us the importance of never giving up. She got turned down by 16 different publishers and it took 6 years until finally, the 17th publisher published her first book, Spruce Woods Adventure. They didn't want to publish it because it was "too boring." Because she didn't self-publish she wasn't able to pick the cover for her book. She told us if she was able to pick the cover it would be different!

-Whitley Nelson

I like these books because I like horses and adventure. The books Spruce Woods Adventure and Spruce Woods Mystery have caught my eye because they have both horses and adventure in them. They are about kids that are around my age so I can relate to them. -Luke Friesen