

Venders Guest Speak By Alissa Mathieu and Jenna Burress

On January 9, 2009, from 10:00 to 11:00 Mr. and Mrs. Vender came to Madawaska Elementary School library to teach the fourth grade students about Jewish holidays.

The Venders came because the fourth graders were reading the historical fiction book *The Private Notebook of Katie Roberts*. Katie is the only Jewish girl at her school. The Venders educated the students on Katie's religion so the students would have a better understanding of her faith.

The Venders talked about Hanukkah, how it is celebrated and other customs the Jewish people have. They had Kippahs for the boys to try on their heads, a menorah that they lit with an explanation for each candle, and they gave out gelt to each student. The students also played with the dreidles that they brought.

Mrs. Gina Jandreau, a fourth grade teacher, stated. "The Venders are very knowledgeable about the Jewish faith and had a great presentation."

Dr. Seuss Month By Zeke Golembesky and Kole Duplessis

During the entire month of March, Dr. Suess's birthday excitement roared on, with door decorations to paper chains. The people that planned the activities for the month are Mrs. Missy Morneault and Mrs. Ginette Albert helped with prizes and rewards. All students from pre-k to fifth grade participated in the activities.

One activity was the paper chain challenge. When students read for 10 minutes, they got to fill out one strip of paper. They linked these into a chain to stretch across the entire school. If they succeed by the end of the month, they receive an ice cream party.

The kids also decorated their classroom doors with Dr. Seuss book decorations. Everybody got a popsicle party as a treat for decorating their doors so well. Students were also treated with a movie and popcorn. The movie they watched was Dr. Seuss's *Horton Hears a Who* on the big screen in the cafeteria.

RIF distributions were held on March 18, where all students got a free book. The Cat in the Hat visited the school café on March 2, to read to the students during their lunch of green eggs and ham. Some of these activities were planned in conjunction with Read Across America week, which takes place during the week of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Mrs. Morneault stated, "We did this because, Dr. Seuss's birthday is on March 2, and each year he is honored for his contribution to children's literature which is enjoyed by children everywhere." She also said that the students enjoyed this year's activities and she looks forward to perhaps some different reading activities next year to help students continue to celebrate children's literature.

MEA Testing by Evan Hebert and Brandon Thibeault

From March 2, to March 6, 2009 the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Madawaska Elementary School took the Maine Educational Assessment, MEA test.

Teachers in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, with some assistance from other teachers, gave the MEA test.

All students in the State of Maine in grades 3-8 take the MEA. Taking the MEA helps teachers know where the students stand academically.

The results will come back sometime this summer. Parents will receive a letter with their child's scores. The school will also place the scores in the students' permanent record.

Students who take the MEA test have had a reward every year as an incentive to take the MEA seriously and do their very best. The classroom teachers asked Mrs. Ginette Albert, the school principal, for permission to go swimming after the testing was done. The teachers called the Sports Complex in Edmundston to reserve a time. They also contacted the PTA for support.

Mrs. Shirleen Gendreau, the school guidance counselor, states, "Next year it won't be the MEA. It will be called the NECAP. It will also take place in October instead of March."

