

One Caledon Many Hearts initiative continues, now spanning more than 20 schools

By Riley Murphy

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With the One Caledon Many Hearts initiative continuing to grow across Caledon schools, it's clear it holds a special place in many schools' hearts.

The initiative, begun by Diana Mollicone, owner of Coffee Time in Bolton, is a school-based art project focused on kindness, belonging, and community.

Mollicone passed out small wooden hearts to Caledon schools for the students to decorate and take their own creative liberties with.

For months, Caledon has seen heart trees, heart designs, patterns and more.

One school has taken it a step further, making the display permanent in their halls.

Gracing the halls at St. John Paul II Catholic Elementary School in Bolton is their take on the initiative; their hearts hang next to inspiring quotes and they have no plans to take it down.

The heart display flows into their diversity hallway, matching the numerous other permanent fixtures they've added, including their Black History Month and Have a Heart Day displays, all of which have been lovingly created by their teachers and students.

Planning time teacher Danielle Hassberger spent days gluing and arranging the One Caledon Many Hearts display on their walls.

Hassberger explains that, with the two other projects they were running, they all became connected to one another.

"Our whole theme through Black History Month was to use your voice and be the power of one person to make a difference in someone else's life, it actually really tied in nicely," says Hassberger.

She says students were encouraged to write a message of kindness for the One Caledon Many Hearts initiative, something that would cheer someone up on a bad day.

When she was putting them up, she noticed how beautiful the quotes and art were.

"We wanted to make it a permanent display because it fit in with our prayer space," says Hassberger. "We wanted it to be a place where kids could come and look for their hearts and read the messages as they go."

She noted that students have already been stopping to read the wall as they walk past.

"It brightens up the hallway, but it also is a talking point for kids to stop and just have a moment for reflection," she adds. "And like I said, if you're having a bad day, there's a lot of nice messages there that can cheer you up."

For the past few months, Mollicone has been able to watch the project come to fruition as schools have sent over their displays.

"I'm just really thankful for all the parents, teachers, and EAs in my network who helped me reach every school in Caledon," says Mollicone. "What's been most special is seeing each school make it their own, whether through patterns, positive messages, or

reflecting students' interests.?

?The displays are absolutely lovely, and I'm so excited this came together the way it did.?