

## Carleton Village school nutrition program receives much-needed \$5,000 boost from Delta Bingo charities

Bloor West Villager | 3 hours ago

The nutrition program at Carleton Village Junior and Senior Sports & Wellness Academy received a much needed \$5,000 financial boost from Delta Bingo charities on Friday, June 24.

The Carleton Village Nutrition Program at the Osler Street and Davenport Road-area kindergarten to Grade 8 school helps to provide a healthy snack for the 300 students daily – they are also provided the opportunity to purchase an inexpensive nutritious lunch from the school cafeteria.

However, the program is in a precarious position. Grant money from the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, the arms length registered charitable foundation of the Toronto District School Board, and donations from parents, do not cover the cost of the program, especially as the price of food continues to rise, principal Lorelei Eccleston pointed out in a school newsletter.

“Our students and families have, and continue to benefit greatly, from having morning snacks provided. It has been our observation that the snacks are well enjoyed and eaten by the students,” she said. “There are many researched studies that indicate the benefits to children’s well-being and the impact on their learning when we ensure that children are well fed and not hungry.”

On average, the program is allocated 25 cents per day per student for the morning snack. Yet, one carton of milk, for example, is 44 cents, Eccleston said.

“Our snack program on a daily basis provides more than just milk to our students so it is easy to see that 25 cents per day is not sufficient funds per child,” she said.

Davenport Councillor Cesar Palacio, who attended Friday’s cheque presentation, said he has been listening carefully to what his constituents have had to say and responded by doing everything he can to protect “vital” programs like the nutrition program.

“Children are our future and studies have clearly shown that hungry children do not do as well as those that have had a nutritious meal or snack,” the councillor said in a statement. “The school nutrition program... ensures children receive at least one good meal or snack a day.”

He also thanked Delta Bingo charities for its help in raising \$5,000.

Carleton Village has embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise \$15,000 by the end of June 2017. So far, the school has raised money through sports events and a bake sale at 11 Division Police, its neighbour.

To find out more or to make a donation, contact Carleton Village school at (416) 393-1600.



Davenport Councillor Cesar Palacio (holding cheque at left), Carleton Village Junior and Senior Sports and Wellness Academy principal Lorelei Eccleston and Delta Bingo’s Andy Buchan join the presentation ceremony of a \$5,000 cheque to the school’s nutrition program. June 24, 2016.