

Local YouTube Video Shares Story of Inclusive Education

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In promoting February as Inclusive Education Month in Ontario, Community Living Ontario is encouraging elementary school aged children between the ages of 4 to 14 across the province to share stories of inclusion in their school through the “**Together we’re Better**” contest. Through individual poems, stories or classroom submitted videos students can demonstrate how students of all abilities are included, how everyone is creatively involved and how we all benefit from our unique contributions.

Winning submissions will be showcased by Community Living Ontario at the “Education Champion’s Symposium” in February.

Holly Ralston, an Educational Assistant at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary School in Woodslee, Ontario came across the contest information and encouraged by Mrs. Chippett’s grade three /four class together they developed a short video around their newest classmate, Johnny, a student with Downs Syndrome.

According to Holly, Johnny’s classmates were very receptive to the idea of producing a video for the contest to demonstrate their inclusive school setting. Soon the video became a very powerful, positive experience for the entire school.

“It was truly a group effort that snowballed with Johnny at the centre becoming not only a bit of a celebrity, but a teacher of life lessons” states Holly. “The kids were learning lessons from Johnny that they never would have received in a classroom”.

To view the YouTube video produced by students at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary School in Woodslee, Ontario and submitted to the Community Living Ontario, Together *we’re* Better contest. [“Click Here”](#)