

Lester B. student's fundraiser surpasses wildest dreams



By Brock Weir

As hundreds of his schoolmates, their parents, and his own mom and dad proudly looked on, cheering "Jakob! Jakob! Jakob!," Grade 4 student Jakob Israel didn't even wince as the hair stylist approached him with a buzzing pair of shears.

After cultivating his mane for the better part of a year, he was ready to see it go — if only to fulfil a personal goal and to make a significant difference in the lives of people in the community.

Jakob was shorn at the final Touchstone Assembly of the year at Lester B. Pearson Public School.



A job well done!

Jakob was a long way from earlier this year when he approached his principal, Arin Otis, with an idea.

"I asked him what he specifically wanted to do, and Jakob said he wanted to raise money for cancer research," Mr. Otis proudly told the crowd on Monday afternoon. "I told him it was a great idea and gave him some pointers. Some of the students in the audience here have done some great fundraising and I told him, "Jakob, it requires a lot of time and dedication. What is your goal?" He said his goal was to raise \$1,000 for cancer research, which is a pretty lofty goal."

Through the support of the school, the school community, his family and friends, Jakob quickly made mincemeat of that "lofty goal". By the time Danyal Habibi of Yellow Orange Salon approached the stage, clippers in hand, he had ultimately raised a whopping \$5,600 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Over the last few months, through colourful posters in the hallways, word of mouth, and a mobilized web presence, the students

were eagerly anticipating what was about to happen and as they chanted his name, they were up on their feet cheering and clapping as each brown lock fell to the floor.

When it was all said and done, a beaming Jakob rubbed his newfound scalp stubble and bent over to grab a few handfuls of his hair almost to assure himself that his mop was well and truly gone, and the Canadian Cancer Society was nearly \$6,000 further on their path towards a cure for cancer.

?Thank you to Mr. Otis, Mme. Stanley, the school, and especially to my mom, dad, grandparents, and my little brother, Harry,? said Jakob. ?Without them, none of this would have been possible. Next year, everybody can join in and let's make this a bigger and better event. Go LBP!?

Following the haircut, and the presentation of the cheque, Karen Beaulieu, Fundraising Coordinator for the Canadian Cancer Society (Holland River Unit) presented him with a certificate of appreciation for a fundraiser that exceeded everyone's wildest dreams.

?I hadn't met Jakob prior to today, but his father dropped by the office and said he wanted to do a fundraiser with a goal of \$1,000,? she said. ?I just can't believe you raised \$5,600! It is just amazing. It is people like Jakob that help us raise money for cancer research, programs and services that we provide the Society, so, Jakob, you are really a great example of a youngster doing such a great job and thinking of the Canadian Cancer Society. I can't thank you enough.?