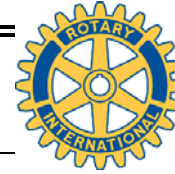


Daddy's Day at School

via Christi L.

Her hair was up in a ponytail. Her favorite dress tied with a bow. Today was Daddy's Day at school, And she couldn't wait to go.
But her Mommy tried to tell her, That she probably should stay home. Why the kids might not understand, If she went to school alone.
But she was not afraid; She knew just what to say. What to tell her classmates Of why he wasn't there today.
But still her mother worried, For her to face this day alone. And that was why once again, She tried to keep her daughter home.
But the little girl went to school, Eager to tell them all. About a dad she never sees A dad who never calls.
There were daddies along the wall in back, For everyone to meet. Children squirming impatiently, Anxious in their seats.
One by one the teacher called, A student from the class. To introduce their daddy, As seconds slowly passed.
At last the teacher called her name, Every child turned to stare. Each of them was searching, For a man who wasn't there.
"Where's her daddy at?" She heard a boy call out. "She probably doesn't have one," Another student dared to shout.
And from somewhere near the back, She heard a daddy say, "Looks like another deadbeat dad, Too busy to waste his day."
The words did not offend her, As she smiled up at her Mom. And looked back at her teacher, Who told her to go on.
And with hands behind her back, Slowly she began to speak. And out from the mouth of a child, Came words incredibly unique.
"My Daddy couldn't be here, Because he lives so far away. But I know he wishes he could be, Since this is such a special day.
And though you cannot meet him, I wanted you to know. All about my daddy, And how much he loves me so.
He loved to tell me stories He taught me to ride my bike. He surprised me with pink roses, And taught me to fly a kite.
We used to share fudge sundaes, And ice cream in a cone. And though you cannot see him, I'm not standing here alone.
"Cause my daddy's always with me, Even though we are apart I know because he told me, He'll forever be in my heart"
With that, her little hand reached up, And lay across her chest. Feeling her own heartbeat, Beneath her favorite dress.
And from somewhere in the crowd of dads, Her mother stood in tears. Proudly watching her daughter, Who was wise beyond her years.
For she stood up for the love Of a man not in her life. Doing what was best for her, Doing what was right.
And when she dropped her hand back down, Staring straight into the crowd. She finished with a voice so soft, But its message clear and loud.
"I love my daddy very much, He's my shining star. And if he could, he'd be here, But heaven's just too far.
You see he was a fireman And died just this past year When airplanes hit the towers And taught Americans to fear.
But sometimes when I close my eyes, It's like he never went away. And then she closed her eyes, And saw him there that day.
And to her mother's amazement, She witnessed with surprise. A room full of daddies and children, All starting to close their eyes.
Who knows what they saw before them, Who knows what they felt inside. Perhaps for merely a second, They saw him at her side.
"I know you're with me Daddy," To the silence she called out. And what happened next made believers, Of those once filled with doubt.
Not one in that room could explain it, For each of their eyes had been closed. But there on the desk beside her, Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.
And a child was blessed, if only for a moment, By the love of her shining bright star. And given the gift of believing, That heaven is never too far
They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Submitted by DG Kevin Shaughnessy



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library
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INVOCATION Oct. 1: Andrea Vevers Oct. 8: Stan Wade

BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
Oct. 10	Merlyn White	Dave Reekie
Oct. 24	Diane Kirkland	Laurie Anderson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail pboekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Marco Terwiel – Polio Eradication

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Business Meeting

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 8	1:15pm	Sports Banquet Meeting	After regular meeting
Oct. 22	6:30pm	Sports Banquet	Meadow Gardens
Nov. 5	noon	Membership Luncheon	La Tratoria
Dec. 16	noon	Executive 2003/04 Elections	Regular meeting



Nov. 5th no regular meeting in the library!
This will be a Membership Drive Luncheon in La Tratoria.

The 50/50 Jackpot will be over \$1,450

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$1376 + 1/2 of today's sales, 3 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS PROGRAM

50/50 Update - Gordie had the lucky ticket HOWEVER, his luck did not follow him to the cards. We now have \$1,376 in the pot and 3 cards left. Come one Come All !!

Stan reminded everyone that our Nov 5 meeting will be a Membership draw, location to be announced, so get your thinking caps on for all those friends and acquaintances who you feel is a good Rotarian just waiting to be ASKED to join our club.

Our guest speaker today was Charles Lester from Canadian Blood Services. This is the organization responsible for our blood supply in Canada for the past 4 years. The center in Vancouver services all of BC and the Yukon and we need 500 units per day to meet the requirements from our 90 hospitals. There are several permanent locations plus mobile clinics going into all areas around the province. In Maple Ridge we have a clinic set up at the Christian Reform Church on Dewdney Trunk Road, every other Friday. You must book appointments and they strive to get you in and out within an hour.



In the past we have been able to collect enough blood to meet our demands, however we are currently running below this level. It is imperative that we increase the number of donors in order to continue to meet the minimum requirements. In Canada only 3% of the populations donates blood. The increase demand is due in part from increased surgeries and chemotherapy treatments as well as our aging population. Each donor can give blood every 56 days but Canada Blood Service is only asking that we each consider donating twice a year. One unit of blood can save 4 lives as the units are all spun down into platlets, plasma, red blood cells and whole blood.

In order to donate you must be between 17 and 71 and be in good health. If you get a tattoo you will be deferred for one year. If you are scheduled for surgery you can donate your own blood for any transfusions you may have to undergo.

Ineke suggested that we challenge other Rotary groups to donate blood. What do you think are you squeamish or can we do this. After all the life you save may be your own.

Submitted by Debi Pearce

12th ANNUAL SPORTS' BANQUET OCT. 22, 2002 MEADOW GARDENS

As we all know, the Sports' Banquet is only 3 weeks away and we really need to get our "act together" in the Silent Auction collection "department"!!!! Yes, the tickets are almost sold out, but donations for our Silent Auction, one of the main "Money Makers" at this event, are coming in very slow. PLEASE, remember we cannot do it without your help!

EVERY MEMBER of our club needs to participate and/or volunteer for our Sports' Banquet, our Mayor Fundraiser of the year. AND every member needs to collect a minimum of 2 items for the Silent Auction (Value approx. \$100.= each, or a number of items with a value totalling \$200.=) These items could be products or services from your own business or from people/companies you're associated with. Think of something original, dinner with the Mayor, golf with a sports' celebrity, an airplane ride with someone who owns a plane, maybe you own a condo in Whistler, or somewhere else exciting, that would be a very worthwhile auction item, or anything else original you can think of.....!!

When you have your 2 items collected, please drop them off at Chocolates by Grace, or let Ineke, Irena or Chad know what they are, who donated, what the value is, when they will be dropped off, or where we need to pick up. Make sure we get a business card from the donor to attach to the donation and so we can properly thank for the donation after the Banquet. It is all very simple and straightforward so PLEASE.....

MAKE SURE WE GET YOUR 2 DONATIONS TO THE SILENT AUCTION NOW!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The November 5th meeting will be a Membership Drive Meeting held at La Tratoria. The venue is booked and we must have 30 people (members & guests) minimum. Please mark this down in your calendars and – start recruiting.

Stan Wade

*The Rotary Club of MeadowRidge is registered as
Meadow Ridge Foundation No. 89125 2116 RR 0001*