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Report card

ANGLOPHONE EAST SUPPORTS LEGS FOR LITERACY

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The Report Card appears weekly and is written by staff, administrators and partners of the Anglophone East School District. This week's column is written by Stephanie Patterson, Community Engagement Coordinator.

The last Sunday in October is always an active one in the tri-community. For the last 15 years, runners and walkers have taken to the streets to move their bodies in support of community literacy initiatives.

This year is no exception; the 16th annual IGT Legs for Literacy event will take place on Sunday, Oct. 25, and with more than 3,000 participants hitting the road, Legs for Literacy has grown to be the largest running event in the province.

Spielo International Legs for Literacy was developed in 2000 by a group of local runners and volunteers who saw the need to raise funds for literacy programs in local schools. The first event included 5 kilometre and 10 km events. The annual event quickly grew to include a half marathon event and in 2005, the full marathon event was added.

"The race began in 2000 to raise funds for a specific literacy project in a specific school and has expanded from there," said committee member, Marie Wilson. "To honour the race founders, who have since moved on to other things, we have not strayed from the original literacy cause."

Thousands of runners have participated over the years and last year was the largest event yet with more than 3,600 runners and all four of Sunday's events reaching capacity well before the registration deadline.

Legs for Literacy also includes a 10 km nordic walking event on Sunday and a family run/walk/wheel event on Saturday, Oct. 24, to make it a full weekend of all ages getting active for a great cause.

"The most exciting thing about this year's event is that we are keeping 5 and 10 KM routes on the roads," Marie said. "The participants loved [the routes] last year so we are keeping them."

Many of the staff at Anglophone East School District participate in the event annually by either running or volunteering at the event and/or sitting on the planning committee. The schools also have students and school staff at Sunday's event motivating runners, cheering them on and handing out much needed water and Gatorade.

The entire District is incredibly grateful for this event; since 2005, over \$175,000 has been donated to support various literacy programs in our schools. These generous donations have allowed the Anglophone East School District to purchase countless books and resources for school libraries throughout all 37 schools, for both the English Prime and French Immersion Programs. The ability to purchase books in a variety of subjects and reading levels allows for students to have a choice of books that suit their interests and are appropriate to their literacy needs.

Legs for Literacy has donated more than \$300,000 to literacy programs in Southeast New Brunswick since 2005, including an annual donation to the Francophone South School District.

For more information on the event please visit legsforliteracy.com.