

# People

## The Mississauga News



Students of the junior autism class at Britannia Public School, from left, Melody McCubbin, Joyce Tung and Alex Pellizzara, pet Abby, a service dog in training.

### Canines keep autistic children safe

## *Fundraiser goes to the dogs*

Some dogs aren't only man's best friends, they're life-saving friends.

On Monday, Britannia Public School students met one such furry, friendly creature, an ambassador from National Service Dogs.

National Service Dogs is a Cambridge-based non-profit organization that uses specially-trained dogs to enrich the quality of life for children with autism spectrum disorders.

The four-legged pals keep the children safe, by avoiding potentially dangerous situations, and provide friendship at the same time.

Abby, a Golden Retriever, was at the Mississauga school to kick-start Paws for Autism (PAW), a fundraiser to benefit NSD. April is Autism Awareness Month.

The students plan to raise at

least \$2,000 to help sponsor and train two puppies.

Kathy Brouse, a primary autism teacher at Britannia, said the school houses two self-contained autism classes and delivers an active autism program.

The school has organized various activities, such as displaying paper paws in the foyer, each paw carrying the name of a child who donated \$2 to the cause. There's also a competition in which students, parents and staff are invited to buy tickets and suggest names for the two puppies the school will help sponsor.

The bond formed between dog and child also helps many of the children develop a greater capacity for learning, said Tracy Lamouroux, an administrative assistant at NSD.

For more information, visit, [www.nsd.on.org](http://www.nsd.on.org).

## Organic gardening for children

Mississauga-based Applewood Acres Gardening & Landscaping has announced the launch of a children's program.

The program will highlight the benefits of organic gardening, for children aged six to 12 by teaching them the concepts in the comfort of their own back and front yards.

Applewood Acres Gardening

With Kids' Program, which costs \$145, will provide children with an hour-long educational seminar on the benefits of and importance of organic gardening practices.

Richard Brzakala, president of the company said the program is a hands-on, fun approach that encourages children to enjoy doing things geared towards gardening.

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~ Love

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