

Grade 1 Chai Celebration Project:

Exploring Local Community Heroes

As part of their unit The Local Community, students divided into groups to meet and interview local heroes – those in our community who were dreamers and brought their dreams to fruition. Each group visited one of the following establishments found in our school’s neighbourhood:

- 1) Harbord Bakery
- 2) Ahimsa Yoga
- 3) Home Hardware
- 4) Jaya Wellness Centre
- 5) By the Way Café
- 6) Crepes A-Go-Go

Prior to the interviews, a parent of one of the students in the class who is a writer for a Toronto newspaper, visited the class to share her techniques when conducting interviews.

When groups visited their assigned businesses, interview questions included:

- What inspired you to create this business?
- What skills or training did you have?
- Where there any obstacles you faced?
- Did you have to learn new things?
- What emotions do you feel about your business?
- How do you support the local community?
- Do you have any rules that you need to follow?

- What are some of your responsibilities?
Students compared their findings with other groups, according to the topics/questions asked.

After learning about their inspirations, challenges and advice for others, students wrote newspaper articles for their “Chai-lights of the Downtown Jewish Community” newspaper. These collaborative articles were displayed at our Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ event (see Part 6.)



Home Hardware



This is Max, Nathan, Hudson and Amitai with Marty at Home Hardware!



We have a photo of all of us at Home Hardware. This is me Max, Hudson, Amitai, Nathan. We are looking for household items.

Amitai, Hudson, Max and Nathan visited Marty at Home Hardware, the place his grandfather started in 1922. They were researching about the community we live in and its local dreamers. They took pictures around the store of things like safety equipment and other things you may need or want. They each interviewed Marty to find out how the business was started and the kinds of things he needs to know and learn to run the business. They were surprised with some of his answers. It was awesome. Next time they go there, they want to buy something from the store.

Journalist's name: Max

What inspired you to create this business?

In 1922 the business Marty's grandfather started began! Marty worked there and liked working with his dad.

What skills or training did you have?

You have to have good listening to hear stuff that are important for working! You also need to learn new things.

Journalist's name: Amitai

Were there any obstacles you faced?

The hardest thing for Marty is filling out forms he thinks are silly for the government.

Did you have to learn new things?

He's always learning new things. He's learning how to use a computer. He uses it to make paint and order new supplies.

Journalist's name: Nathan

What kind of emotions do you feel about your business?

Marty feel proud because the business has been in his family for 94 years.

How do you support or help the local community?

Marty donates money. He also donates gloves and bags for the community clean-up.

Journalist's name: Hudson

Do you have any rules that you need to follow?

Marty needs to keep the prices as high as other hardware stores and follow government rules.

What are some of your responsibilities?

Marty has to open on time. He also has to pay his staff. He has to order supplies on time. He also has to make sure his staff are doing the right thing.



We are at Home Hardware with Marty! We are looking at safety stuff.



We are looking at a picture of how Home Hardware used to look like.