## **Rotary-St. James Public School Partnership**



### ****Background****

**The Rotary-St. James Public School Partnership was initiated during the 2013-14 school year with the official signing of the agreement in January 2014.**

**St. James Public School has been identified as a high needs elementary school within the Lakehead Public Schools. St. James is a JK-Grade 8 with approximately 200 students.  There has been approximately a 50% turnover of students each year during the life of the Partnership.**

 **The school population has a large transitional population as well as frequently receiving children of immigrant families.**

**Commitment**

The Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Port Arthur) will maintain a Club-School Partnership Committee throughout the duration of the Partnership.

The Club will provide financial support to Partnership activities through its annual budgeting process.

The Club-School Partnership Committee will encourage the participation of club members in school program activities requiring additional community support.

In particular the Club-School Partnership Committee will encourage member support of the school literacy, music and leadership initiatives.

### ****Activities****

**Over the five years of the Partnership activities have included the provision of adult Readers who listen to, assist, and read with children in the primary grades. Up to a dozen Rotarians and their partners or friends have participated in the Reading program each year. A Reading Helpers Handbook has been developed to assist with new Reader orientation. Leadership development has also been fostered by certain programming offered by Port Arthur Rotary. A Music program is also an integral part of the relationship while a sports program has periodically been offered by Rotarians who have skills in certain areas.**