



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Guinness World Record to be challenged in Hay River on May 24

South Slave Divisional Education Council's "Million Project" will obliterate previous record

Hay River, NT – Have you ever wondered what a single string of 1,000,000 beads would look like or how long it would be? Tuesday, May 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. is your chance to find out!

That's when a single string of 1,000,000 beads will be laid out around (and around and around) the Diamond Jenness Secondary School track, where it will be authenticated and verified in order to challenge the current Guinness World Record. Nearly 10 months of sorting, counting, stringing and tying by students, teachers, parents and staff members across the South Slave Divisional Education Council has created the more than six-kilometre-long continuous string of beads.

How many is a million? What does it look like? How many times more than a thousand or a hundred is a million? The brainchild of SSDEC Numeracy Coordinator, Cathy Canavan-McGrath, these are the types of questions the Million Project was designed to answer in a fun and creative way.

Canavan-McGrath says the project provides a concrete example of our place value system at work. "Rarely do we have the chance to see large numbers in concrete terms. And, our teachers were creative in how they integrated this project into their classroom. Younger students focused upon counting and sorting while older students were challenged to discover ratios, percentages and other types of mathematical relationships through participation in the project. I was amazed at the variety of ways in which the classroom teachers incorporated the Million Project."

Parents and members of the public are invited to come out to celebrate the completion of the Million Project and witness for themselves how large 1,000,000 truly is.

In the following weeks, the more than 270 kilogram sting of beads will travel across the South Slave, visiting schools in Fort Resolution, Fort Smith and Lutsel K'e.

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