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Staples, students help kids in need

By MICHAEL BURKE
Special to The Daily Courier

A group of students from Springvalley Middle School have taken back-to-school shopping to a generous, new level.

Thanks to Staples and its customers, the Social Justice Club at SMS was given over $4,100 to spend on school supplies for less fortunate students in Kelowna.

The money was raised in the store from Aug. 1 to Sept. 9 through customer donations.

On Sept. 16, Springvalley Middle teachers Al Hepgood and Ryan Wakefield accompanied members of the Social Justice Club to Staples to spend the money.

They filled seven shopping carts with pencils, binders, calculators, pencil crayons and other basic school supplies.

"Unfortunately, there are many students in the district that don't have the financial means to get the supplies they need," said Wakefield. "I've told my students that it can be easy to see the big needs in the world, but we also need to address the issues in our own backyard. This is the third year we have worked with Staples on this program."

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Students, teachers and Staples employees stand with school supplies for less fortunate students.

Nikita Planz and Kate Bernier were two of the students picking out school supplies.

"This is a good way to give back to the community," said Nikita. "I have seen some of my friends get help when they needed it and this is a great way to give back."

Kate shared her sentiment: "I know some students in need and this is going to really help them out. I also love the feeling you get from helping out."

Once the shopping was done, the supplies were taken back to Springvalley, where the students divided everything up.

The supplies were then delivered to 19 schools throughout Kelowna. Each school will decide how to share the supplies with the students that need them.