

# Raffle supports early childhood development

An upcoming raffle promises to make someone in the eastern Fraser Valley the proud owner of a 2006 Pontiac WAVE and give residents of Agassiz and Harrison a chance to support local early childhood initiatives. The raffle, sponsored by Success by 6, a community-based movement that improves the lives of young children and their families, is unique in that it enables \$6.00 to be raised for every \$5.00 ticket sold. Second prize is a \$2000 vacation package and third prize is \$2000 cash.

"Early childhood programs in Agassiz-Harrison will directly benefit from every ticket sold locally," says Barb Vaughan, coor-

dinator of Early Childhood Development. "Every penny stays in our community. Success by 6 has already contributed to a local parent-child Mother Goose program starting in June. Buying a ticket is a great way to show support and who knows, you might even win!" The draw will be held at noon on June 29<sup>th</sup> at Merrin Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd. in Chilliwack. With 20,000 tickets being sold, entrants have a one in 6666 chance of winning a prize.

Success by 6 early childhood initiatives work in more than 350 communities in North America, including 18 in BC, to help children in their early years so that they will be successful

learners when they start school. A highly innovative public/private partnership of the United Way of BC, the Savings and Credit Unions of BC, and the provincial Ministry for Children and Family Development has enabled Success by 6 to expand quickly in the province.

According to Debbie Denault, Success by 6 coordinator for the Eastern Fraser Valley (from Aldergrove to Boston Bar), each of the initiatives is an autonomous, community-driven partnership of individuals, families, and organizations. "We draw our strength from the community. Our common passion is to ensure that children

are ready to succeed when they enter school. Children who are healthy, safe, and secure have a much greater chance of becoming successful learners and leading fulfilling lives."

The need for early childhood programs in BC is acute, Denault claims. "About 25 per cent of children entering school are simply not prepared socially or emotionally. Many are lacking in language and motor skills. These obstacles, coupled with the poverty that thousands of children live in, conspire to deprive many children of a reasonable chance of succeeding in school and life."

Denault is confident that the raffle will raise

much-needed funds for the Abbotsford area. "Our corporate media sponsors — Black News Group, Star 98.3 and Country 107.1 — have been incredibly supportive with free advertising. And the fact that Success by 6 is contributing an extra dollar for each ticket sold locally means that Agassiz-Harrison gets \$6.00 per ticket.

Tickets for the Success by 6 raffle can be purchased from Prospera Credit Union in Agassiz and at the Agassiz-Harrison Observer as well as at upcoming local events. For more information about the raffle and Success by 6, contact Barb Vaughan at 604 815-8963, or Debbie Denault at 604 700-1848. Visit [www.successby6bc.ca](http://www.successby6bc.ca).