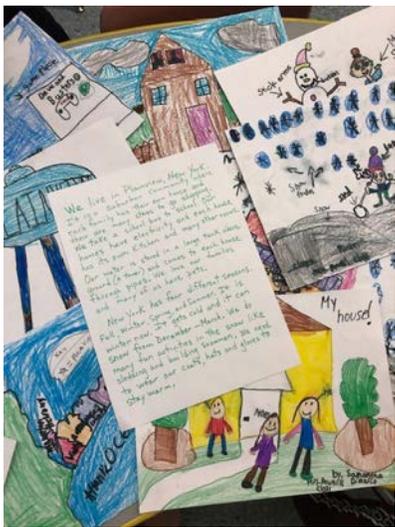


## Superintendent's Highlight June 7, 2019



Stratford Road Elementary School students reached across the globe this year when they became pen pals with children in Uganda, Africa. The entire third grade student body had the opportunity to connect with students from a village in Masese, Uganda. This wonderful connection was established through HELP Uganda International, an organization which helps to empower the people and fortify the infrastructure of the country.

Prior to making the connection with their international friends, the teachers prepared the students for this undertaking by learning about the history, people and land of Uganda. They were then visited by a representative from the organization, Dr. Delia Garrity, who shared actual photos and videos from the children in the village. The students learned about Uganda's businesses, schools, games and clothing. They were amazed by the differences in the schools and the clothing, but were inspired by the hopes and wishes they shared in common with their Ugandan pen pals.



Our Stratford students were tasked with composing one letter per class to accompany the individual drawings they each created for their Ugandan friends. The letters and drawings were then hand delivered to students in a school in Uganda. Our students waited patiently for several months for their responses, wondering what their pen pals would share about themselves. This month, their responses were finally returned. Each student received their very own drawing and a large class letter. The students were ecstatic as they examined their drawings from their Ugandan friends. Many of them showed what their schools looked like and some shared pictures of their village and homes. One

student stated, "It was amazing to be able to communicate with people around the world." As the students held their pictures, they were reminded to think of how far the drawings had travelled and the connections that were created. They realized that the world isn't so large, when you have a pen and paper in hand.

