



Scout Canada's 3rd Toronto scout group commissioner Dan Nelson teaches his scouts the importance of preparing emergency kits, inside the Parkdale Community Centre on March 1. His scouts raise their matches up in the air, after they painted the heads of their matches with nail polish in order to make them less vulnerable to harsh weather.

Scouts Canada making its presence felt in Parkdale

Twelve year-old Ashah Jeevakanthan raised his hand up in the air and said "dyb, dyb, dyb, dyb," inside the Parkdale Community Centre, located by Lansdowne and Queen on Wednesday, March 1.

"Dob, Dob, Dob, Dob," replied nine of his 30 fellow youth members, aged between 7 and 12, inside the community centre's gymnasium.

"Dyb stands for do your best and dob stands for do our best," said Anne-Geert Klei, a 27 year-old issues management consultant. "The kids are doing an opening ceremony called the Grand Howl."

Klei, a volunteer leader for the non-



Anne-Geert Klei, a volunteer leader for 3rd Toronto talks to his students about the importance of wearing a scouting uniform.

profit charitable organization Scouts Canada, said the children do that ritual when they gather as a group.

Every Wednesday, the youth of 3rd Toronto, a Scouts Canada division that has been operating in the city since 1909, meet

at the centre to be instructed by four scouting group leaders.

In the meetings the children – a majority of them wearing the traditional scouts shirts that display the badges they earned as members play cultural games, perform ceremonies, and learn hands on outdoor survival skills.

"Our group is a mixed group. Our members are from Europe and East Asia. About 50 per cent of our youth members are Sri Lankan," said 3rd Toronto scout group commissioner Dan Nelson, a 31 year-old lawyer.