



PHOTO BY GLENA CLEARWATER

Play advocate Pierre Harrison peers into a carton that two of the children inside tell him is their "chicken coop." Harrison was sponsored by Brass Bell Best Start to hold several play sessions for adults and children.

Play time important

BY GLENA CLEARWATER

PARENTS, children, teachers, administration and day care workers had sessions last week on "Play" brought by renowned play advocate Pierre Harrison, the founder of Play, Learn, Think. The gymnasium at George O'Neill Public School was a riot of kids featuring everything a kid would like to play with from real tools — such as saws, hammers and scissors — to craft items, science ideas, toys and recycled materials.

Parents were able to step back and watch as the children let their imaginations run wild.

Brass Bell Best Start hosted Harrison, believing as he does, that children learn best through play and a minimum of direction. Play is the cornerstone to children's healthy cognitive, emotional, social and physical development. For more information check www.playlearnthink.com/frontplt.htm.

To quote Friedrich Froebel, "Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child's soul."