

St. William celebrates start of Lent



Shoreline Week photo: Courtesy Jennifer Breault

Grade 7 students from St. William Catholic School proudly display their ashes from last week's Mass.

St. William Catholic School students celebrated the start of the Lenten season with a Mass and distribution of ashes at the school last week.

A special thank you to Fr. David Butler for being our celebrant and reminding our students about this Holy season.

During the 40 days of Lent, students are encouraged to bring in food items that the St. Vincent de Paul Society will deliver to the local foodbanks. Items such as pastas, canned vegetables and fruits, tuna, peanut butter, cereals and healthy snacks for lunches would be appreciated.

The students and staff would also like to thank our Catholic School Council for the generous pancake breakfast provided to students on Shrove Tuesday.

The students enjoyed gathering together in the church hall and eating a delicious second breakfast!

For talkative two, it's a matter of debate

By Sharon Hill, The Windsor Star

March 21, 2012



Norman Nehmetallah, 17, left, and Kaitlyn Meloche, 18, both grade 12 students at Assumption High School, and are representing south western Ontario in the Provincial Debate Championships in Ottawa, are pictured at Assumption High School Monday, March 19, 2012. Photograph by: Star Staff, The Windsor Star

WINDSOR, Ont. -- Don't try to win an argument with Grade 12 Assumption high school students Norman Nehmetallah and Kaitlyn Meloche.

The pair who have formed a bad cop/good cop sort of debating team will represent Southwestern Ontario later this week at the provincial debate championship in Ottawa.

Meloche presents constructive points while Nehmetallah prefers the rebuttal and tearing down the other team's arguments.

"I can find flaws in anything," said Nehmetallah, 17, who describes himself as a contrarian.

Meloche, 18, said she's a good public speaker and is very persuasive. "And I like to be right."

If the talkative two get into the final competition in Ottawa they will be debating in Parliament and will have a chance to compete nationally.

They have won four debates on a team with other classmates at University of Windsor competitions. As a team of two they placed second at a competition at York University in Toronto in February.

They were first teamed up in 2008 when they started at Assumption high school.

In competitive debating, teams sometimes know the topic ahead of time but have to prepare both sides of the argument. Other times, they are given their position on the issue and then 15 minutes to prepare for what can be a 40-minute debate.

Nehmetallah likes to debate interventionism, such as whether our armed forces should have gone into Afghanistan. Meloche prefers debates about education and health care. They've debated Occupy Wall Street and, despite their own beliefs, argued that the protesters should have been allowed to stay. To be a good debater sometimes you have to set aside your own opinions, they said.

The debate team at the high school has been going for about five years and has about 50 members. This year the pair started up a parliamentary debate team and starts each practice by talking about world events.

Jeremy Bracken, a business, law and economics teacher who leads the debate team, said the students have a good chance at the provincial competition. "If they perform as well as they normally do I can see them going on to nationals."

Thanks to tournaments at the University of Windsor that can have 180 competitors, debating is becoming more popular, Bracken said. He said there are about 15 local high school teams.

Meloche said debating teaches teens to be critical thinkers.

Nehmetallah said teens have access to so many views through digital immediacy that it becomes difficult to form an opinion.

He said debating encourages people to form their own opinions and get behind causes they believe in.

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St. Thomas of Villanova does well in province-wide “Dancefest”

Villanova gets trophy for outstanding school

Posted 23 hours ago

LASALLE — The St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School dance team had a tremendous performance at the recent “Dancefest” competition.

This year marked the 10th anniversary for the province wide “Dancefest.” It was held recently in North Bay at West Ferris Secondary School.

There were 470 students and teachers involved in the competition and over 20 schools representing the province.

Villanova was awarded the trophy for Outstanding School in the competition. The students also were recognized with the following awards:

First Place:

“Valerie” - Mickayla Deslippe- Novice Jazz (small group)

“The Beautiful People” - Group Choreography -Novice Modern (small group)

“Mama I'm a Big Girl” - Co choreographed: Stefanie & Vanessa Sassine, Novice Musical Duet

“Sugar Mama” - Choreographer Aleisha Baylis Intermediate Jazz (small group)

“Papi” - Choreographer Mickayla Deslippe Intermediate Cultural (large group)

“Oh My Gosh” - Group Choreographer - Intermediate Musical Theatre (small group)

Second Place:

“Never Had a Friend” - Group Choreography -Novice Musical Theatre (small group)

“Beside You” - Choreographer: Hannah Butcher Hagell - Advanced Contemporary (small group)

“Doll Evolution” - Choreographer Katie Hall Advanced Hip Hop (Large group)

“Sesame Street” - Gianna Thomas choreographer - Musical Theatre (small group)

“Hard to Let Go” - Group Choreographer Intermediate Lyrical (small group)

“Black Swan” - Hannah Butcher Hagell, Mickayla Deslippe Intermediate Production Large Group

“Turning Tables” - Mickayla Deslippe- Intermediate Contemporary (small group)

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Students recognized for a 'great start' in high school

Posted 2 days ago

By Pat Bailey

Dozens of Grade 9 students at Cardinal Carter Secondary School made a smooth transition into high school, garnering top marks and were honored for their efforts at the annual 'Great Start Breakfast' on Thursday morning.

Joined by their families, the students were treated to a breakfast buffet prepared and served up by their fellow students and Carter staff.

Keynote speaker, OPP Constable Kevin O'Neil congratulated the students on their outstanding efforts in achieving a cumulative average of 75% or higher for their first semester of high school.

O'Neil told the group that through all his years in policing, the last eight have been the most rewarding.

The officer said that working within the schools at both the elementary and secondary levels has given him the opportunity to meet some great kids and become more actively involved with some first rate students.

"Most officers don't get a chance to meet the good kids," said O'Neil.

He also urged the students to continue to work hard as they advance through high school.

"You are our future leaders," said O'Neil, "I'm counting on you to do the right thing."

"There's a long road ahead," he added, "but certainly you're on the right track."

In closing, O'Neil also acknowledged the role of the parents in the success of the award recipients.

He told the parents in attendance that their support was crucial to the success of their sons and daughters and urged them to keep the lines of communication open.

"Talk to them," said O'Neil, "don't talk at them."

Principal Luigi Conte applauded the efforts of the students for a great start in their high school career.

Award recipients were; Andrea Abraham, Kristen Amaral, Nadine Badour, Ryan Batemen, Felicia Bedard, Ryan Bento, Sydney Bergeron, Joshua Bosse, Alec Bukovac, Olivia Burgess, Nina Cabanaw, Darby Chambers, Sean Connell, Liam Croshaw, Celeste Dancel, Erica DeFrancisco, Christopher DiMenna, Kylie DiMenna, Riley Dufour, Breanna Dyck, Ryan Dyck, Tom Feltz, Sheldon Foldesi, Hope Forman, Alley George, Brian Gilbert, Mitchel Grant, Dayne Harb, Kelsey Hayes, Christian Ingratta, Vania Jimenez De Leon, Raeanne Lapain, Vanessa Longo, Julian Lukas, Kristin Luyten, Morgan Maksoud, Jennifer Martinez Calderon, Haley McKeen, Bruno Milos, Kaitlyn Molliconi, Kelsea Molzan, Beccah Mullin, Noah Nassif, Matthew Nelson, Dalal Nohra, Brianna Oliveira, David Ormelas, Angelica Ouellette, Kristine Pedro, Kenzie Preston, Nicholas Raffoul, Dennis Ramos, Joseph Slikboer, Mark Smith, Dillon St. Bernard, Evan Stenhouse, Jaclyn Suder, Grant Sutherland, Christopher Tannous, Domenic Thachuk, Josh Van Roie, Shaelynne Vanoorschot-Fowler, Riley Vigneux, Micayla Vriesacker, Brittney Wass, Paula Zimmermann, Julia Zioutis and Amy Zuccato.

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These Grade 9 Cardinal Carter Secondary School were among the 68 who were recognized at a special "great start breakfast" Thursday, March 8, 2012, for their academic achievement for their first semester of high school in addition to a buffet breakfast, the students were entertained by Billy Raffoul and Kyle Mastronardi and received certificates for their achievement.

St. Anthony school students spearhead E-Waste Collection



An e-waste collection event benefitting Computers for Kids and the St. Anthony Catholic School parent council will be held on March 17. Pictured above are chair and co-chair of the school's e-waste collection committee, Juanita Arango and Karly Mendes-Teves.

St. Anthony Catholic School's grade seven and eight classes are spearheading an e-waste collection event in partnership with Computers for Kids to be held on Saturday, March 17. Proceeds from the collection will be split between Computers for Kids and the the St. Anthony parent council.

by Heather Marentette
Grade seven and eight students from St. Anthony Catholic School in Harrow are leading the way for their

fellow classmates to become responsible citizens and community partners by spearheading an E-Waste Collection event.

The event will be held in partnership with Computers for Kids (CFK), a local registered charity dedicated to refurbishing and recycling old electronics equipment. The ultimate goal of CFK is to seek out serviceable electronics donations that can be used to assist local children with computer access. Any other pieces that cannot be serviced are properly recycled, with profits going towards CFK programs and services. By pairing with CFK with their e-waste collection, St. Anthony School will share in the recycling profits.

St. Anthony's parent council had been looking to partner with CFK for a collection event, said AnneMarie Grant, but they decided to turn the reins of the project over to the school's senior students.

"There is so much that the parent council does for the students, we thought that this would be a great opportunity for the grade sevens and eights to step up and take a leadership role within their community," said Grant.

Since presenting the idea to the students and having a meeting with Computers for Kids president, Rob McLean, in early January, Grant said that a large number of students have volunteered for the project and have taken initiative in spreading the word about the collection event.

Juanita Arango, chair of the e-waste collection committee, and Karly Mendes-Teves, co-chair, have been working with their fellow students to create posters that will be hung around the school and around

town. In addition, the committee has travelled around to all of the school's classrooms to teach their fellow students about e-waste recycling, have created a Facebook page and a display at the front entrance of the school to promote the collection.

"I thought that it would be good for the community," said Arango. I didn't know that there was a problem with throwing away electronic equipment...I didn't know that the chemicals can go into our soil and then into our groundwater and can make us sick. I thought it would be a good idea to get the word out."

Mendes-Teves said she was inspired to help out with the event after learning about CFK's mission to provide local students in need with computer access.

"I know a lot of kids who don't have computers," said Mendes-Teves. "I felt that I needed to help out with this in any way I could."

The portion of the school's collection profits will go towards the parent council's

programs for the 2012-2013 school year, said Grant.

"What's really great is that the grade eight class is doing this knowing that they won't benefit from it," said Grant. "The money made will go into next year's budget for the parent council...I can't express how proud I am of the students for the work they're putting into this. They put a fantastic product together and I couldn't be happier."

St. Anthony's E-Waste Collection will take place on Saturday, March 17 from 9a.m. to 1p.m. at the Harrow Water Department, located at

120 Sinasac Street. Items that can be donated include old televisions, computers and computer accessories, laptops, game consoles, cell phones, batteries, printers and audio and video equipment. Household refuse and vehicle tires are NOT accepted.

Anyone interested in dropping off e-waste but are unavailable to do so on March 17 can bring the items to St. Anthony School, Monday to Friday from 9a.m. to 3:30p.m. Anyone requiring pick up can contact AnneMarie Grant at 519-738-1097.

Guilbeault's leadership, dedication recognized with Ontario Jr. Citizen of the Year nomination

When it came time to organize the inaugural 'Smiles4Miles' 4v4 soccer tournament in memory of Zach D'Souza, Jocelyn Guilbeault took on a leadership role in ensuring the event was a successful tribute to her friend.

École secondaire l'Essor teacher and Smiles4Miles chairperson Cathleen Mulvey recalled Guilbeault's efforts in helping to raise over \$34,000 for children's cancer research at The Hospital for Sick Kids.

"(The tournament) was dependent on the involvement of young people from the local high schools both as participants and promoters, and Jocelyn took the lead at the largest school to ensure a tremendous response in entries and fundraising," wrote Mulvey, who was also an assistant coach with Guilbeault's travel soccer team.

"She visited each homeroom class to emphasize the merits of this charity and the qualities of her friend, Zach . . . At the organizing committee meetings, Jocelyn impressed the adult members with her maturity, creativity, and infectious energy."

This is one of many causes that Guilbeault has contributed to in the community, so it should come as no surprise that she was among the local nominees for Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year.

At Ste. Anne Catholic High School, she has served as newspaper editor, president of the 'Best Buddies' program, and as a Student Council representative, helping with the Terry Fox Walk, Grade 9 Day, Seniors' Day, and the semi-formal event.

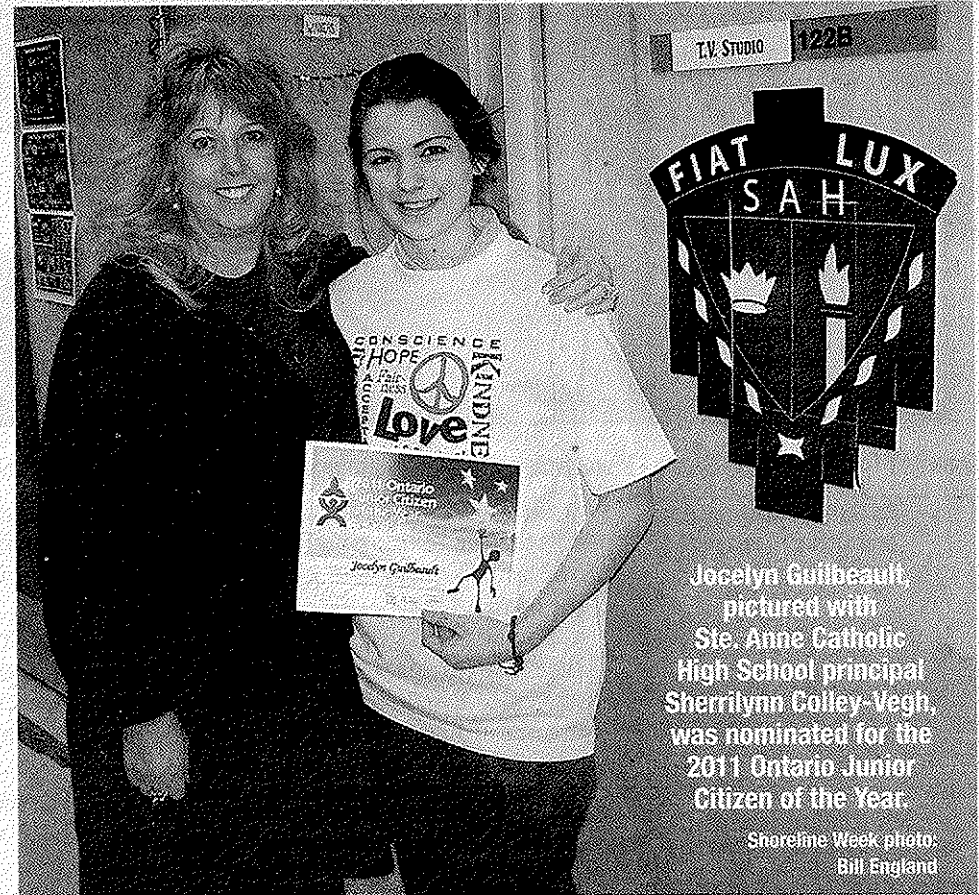
She has also tutored special needs students, worked as a Focus on Youth summer camp counsellor, and last November, participated in the Rick Hansen Relay as a medal bearer.

Motivate

Ste. Anne principal Sherrilynn Colley-Vegh praised Guilbeault not only for her ability to motivate other students, but for maintaining a balanced school life with strong academic and athletic records.

"Jocelyn is a great role model for all students," said Colley-Vegh. "When you meet her, you know that we are in great hands since our youth is our future. While some teenagers are at the 'me stage', Jocelyn is at the self-actualization – help the world globally stage."

"In our Catholic schools, we strive to teach our students to follow Christ's teachings. Jocelyn is a student that brings the Gospel values to life in her daily actions and treatment and care for others. Her selfless dedication to service is inspiring to all. We are all blessed to have her in our lives."



Jocelyn Guilbeault, pictured with Ste. Anne Catholic High School principal Sherrilynn Colley-Vegh, was nominated for the 2011 Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year

Shoreline Week photo: Bill England

In compiling Guilbeault's nomination package, many of her Ste. Anne teachers, coaches, and others echoed these comments with their own supporting words.

"She is simply one of the most motivated students I have ever seen in the

pursuit of charity and the common good," wrote coach David Fuerth.

"She is a true giver of self – always willing to help with whatever, whenever, and whoever. A genuinely loving, caring person," added teacher Rebecca D'Amore.

Student-teacher basketball game at St. William

On Friday, March 9, the Grade 8 members of the boys and girls basketball teams challenged their teachers to a friendly game of basketball.

The Grade 8s came out strong, not allowing the teachers to hit any baskets for the first three minutes of play.

The students used their speed and agility to their advantage, but it wasn't long before the teachers replied with numerous baskets.

Led by Mr. Macri, the teachers were able to play offensively, and quickly gathered steam. By the end of the game, the teachers were in the lead, thanks to Mr. Bachetti playing very defensively (and maybe fouling) against some of the students.

The teachers were victorious in the end, and needed the March Break to recover from one serious, but fun-filled game!

Grade 7s and 8s to see 'The Hunger Games'

The Grade 7 and 8 students are heading to see a special matinee showing of "The Hunger Games" movie on Friday at Imagine Cinemas in Lakeshore.



Grade 8 students at St. William Catholic School, faced their teachers in a friendly basketball game recently. The teachers, led by principal Joe Bachetti, won the game.

Shoreline Week photo: Courtesy Jennifer Breault

Both grades have read the book, and most of the students have read the whole series!

Everyone (including the teachers) is very excited to attend this movie.

Students will be working on a media assignment after the showing to compare the differences between texts and movie renditions of stories.

Grade 1s visit John R. Park Homestead

The Grade 1 students recently went on a field trip to the John R. Park Homestead. where they learned

about tapping maple trees and pioneer life.

It is very evident from the pictures and short essays written by the students, and displayed in the main hallway, that they had a wonderful experience.

Welcome back Mrs. Nanson!

St. William would like to welcome back from maternity leave, Mrs. K. Nanson to her Grade 5 classroom, and wish good luck to Mr. Macri.

Stay tuned for more exciting St. William Wildcats news!

Cursed

Musical Theatre is a Blessing for Catholic School Students

STORY BY KAREN PATON-EVANS



IN THE WORLD OF MUSICAL THEATRE, competition for roles is fierce and tough agents wrangle over every comma in their artists' contracts. However, for several local performers who scored lead roles in a new musical, their contract was collaborative, verbal and sealed with a solemn pinky swear with the playwright/director.

At the time, the girls were in grade four and new members of The Panther Players, the theatrical group of St. Peter Catholic Elementary School in Tecumseh. The youngsters realized they would need to earn their acting chops if they wanted to be given major parts by the time they reached the eighth grade. Showing their commitment, they asked Vanessa Corona, the creator of the school's plays, to promise to stay on at least till they graduated.

Four years later, watching those same students in rehearsal for this season's big show, *Cursed*, her eighth show in six years, Vanessa says, "It's a great feeling to see that moment through." She is always proud to see kids come up through the ranks, on the boards and behind the scenes, to entertain audiences year after year. "For every single student, there's a special moment," says the teacher.

Her own reward is seeing young children loving the arts and drama. "Sometimes, the arts are just pushed aside. For a lot of these kids, this is where their hearts are," says Vanessa. "That should be celebrated."

"Probably 75% of grades 4 through 8 tries out," says Kara Chauvin, a grade 6 teacher on maternity leave who volunteers as the play's producer. "The kids are all very excited when it comes time to audition." It's an honour to be chosen. "Our students don't make fun of each other for being in the arts."

At least 120 students are part of the cast and crew this year. Eighty of them are on stage, delivering their lines and singing and dancing their way through 14 musical numbers. Grade 8 students handle the props, lighting, sound, hospitality and promotion. "They really run the show themselves," Vanessa says. "By the time the students hit grade 8, they've been in five shows...they are really pros on stage."

Before the curtain rises on the two-hour production, there is a lot of rehearsal. Kids work on lunch hours and after school two nights a week from January till the play opens in May. Students sign a contract indicating they will uphold the priorities: "Academics come first, the moral tone of the school, then the play," Kara says. If a student falls behind on schoolwork, picks on anyone or is being a negative force, he or she is warned. Three warnings and the show is over for that student. "Kids clean up their acts quickly."

Vanessa, their playwright/director, forewarns cast and crew: Sometimes it's



Clockwise from above: Outside of classtime, fellow teachers engage children in the arts. Vanessa Corona is the playwright/director and Kara Chauvin is the producer. Photo by St. Louis Studio; the Panther Players have turned their stage into a magical forest and themselves into fairy godmothers, pixies, gnomes, heroes and witches; students of St. Peter Catholic Elementary School rehearse *Cursed*, the original musical they will perform to the public in May.

going to be hard. Sometimes we won't all get along. We'll also be happy. "That's what theatre is – supporting one another, working together and having a good time."

The positive experience delivers a positive message. "Good always prevails in every show," Kara says. "We present our Catholic values without putting religion in your face."

This year's play is about teamwork, an apt theme considering the involvement of so many students, teachers and parents. As usual, Vanessa started work on the new play two weeks after the curtain closed on the previous show. "I try to stay really organic to my own writing process," she says. "Every year, something different inspires me." She mines old scores and current pop releases. "I first pick songs that will work with the story," she says. "I adapt the lyrics so the songs work with the heart and story-line of the play itself."

"After the show is cast, I go back and alter it so it suits the students who are performing it," Vanessa explains. In a past production, one excellent singer stuttered over words containing a W. To make the performer more comfortable and let her true star power shine, the playwright says, "I went back through the script and changed her lines."

"Last year, we had very strong female leads. We did a take on a kind of beauty pageant," Kara says. "This year, the boys are taking centre stage." Character names are borrowed from the real names of student performers from the previous year's play. *Cursed's* would-be hero, Caleb, played by Jason Jurakosky, wants to attend to attend the Academy of the Good but through a paperwork error winds up at Fairy Godmother School. He is given charge of Lizzie (Victoria Grandi) but is tricked into cursing rather than helping her. As Caleb and his sidekick Sandro (Philip Bakos) try to undo the harm he caused, the school is infiltrated by the Academy of Villains. Fairy godmothers, pixies, gnomes, heroes and witches clash in a battle of good versus evil. The message that emerges is people "have to love themselves for who they are and be strong in their own person."

Cursed boasts six full cast numbers. One big piece features the melody of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight." "When the characters enter the enchanted forest, it's really magical," Vanessa enthuses.

While most of the score relies on karaoke recordings or tracks recorded by local musician Kelly Authier, the performers will

be singing to a taped track of "Cross My Heart" by Mariana's Trench, played by student musicians. "Now their band is going to play at intermission," Vanessa says.

The finale is built on Lady Gaga's "Edge of Glory." "I always love the finale," seeing the culmination of all the writing, directing, choreography and rehearsing, says Vanessa. "I think it will be a phenomenal number this year."

She appreciates the opportunity of being the school's playwright. "It's opened up a whole world for me," Vanessa shares. "That's basically my heart on the page and I trust our students...It's magical to see something you dream up in your mind come to life."

Helping to create the fantasy are parents who do hair and makeup and make sets and costumes. "We have one parent, Miriam Ditty, who takes pride in designing the sets," Kara says.

With show time swiftly approaching, the producer assesses the cast and crew's performance. "They're good. They want to do it. The stakes are high," she says. "They always step up to the challenge."

Vanessa recalls one nervous soloist in last year's show, Crowned, who was concerned she wouldn't do well enough to please the audience. On stage, her jitters disappeared as her voice soared. "I could hear the crowd gasping," the director says.

Long months of rehearsal do more than prepare students for the opening. "A lot of mentoring goes on," Kara finds. She believes The Panther Players has made the school more cohesive, forming friendships across the grade levels. "They know each other on the playground; they get a sense of who everyone is."

Teachers see new sides of their students as they lose shyness and gain confidence. "There's that spark, that energy," says Kara. "Some students may not say a word in class. They drop that on stage."

Cursed will have six morning, afternoon and evening performances, including shows at 7 p.m. open to the public on May 15th, 16th and 17th. Tickets go on sale late April and can be reserved by calling the school at 519-735-2666. The ticket price is \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door at École secondaire l'Essor at 13605 St. Gregory's Road, St. Clair Beach.

Vanessa is upfront with the kids: "No matter what, your parents are going to like you." She pushes them harder to entertain everybody in the audience. "We want people to leave laughing and saying, 'That was a good show.'" WL

MARCH 27, 2012

Cardinal Carter Corner

Spring has sprung at Cardinal Carter and students are as busy as ever! We have had several special events at the school recently and are pleased to pass along congratulations to many deserving students.

In the Arts department, the revival of our school musical brought the Little Shop of Horrors to the CC auditorium in February. The cast did an outstanding job and audiences were very impressed with the acting and singing tal-

ent at CC.

Speaking of talent, congratulations is extended to the band Pulp City Inn who recently appeared on the national broadcast "Canada Got Talent" and succeeded in making it to the next round of competition (you can see their performance on the Canada's Got Talent website; Toronto auditions). Pulp City Inn features gr. 12 Cardinal Carter student Brandon Zuccato, CC alumni Justin Zuccato and Daryl Festa, and Brandon Lefrancois. Good luck in the next round of competition to this very talented band.

Visual arts students are participating in a number of exhibits including a juried student art show at

the Leamington Arts Centre March 28-April 28; the CAW Local 200 and 444 2nd annual Working with the Environment Art Show and Silent Auction at Devonshire Mall April 16-22 and the University of Windsor Secondary School Art Exhibit in the Visual Arts Building Gallery in May. Best of luck to our artists at these events.

In athletic news, five Cardinal Carter students competed against students from 39 schools at the Western Ontario Skating Invitational competition on Mar. 6th in Aylmer, Ontario.

Congratulations to Maggie Aziz who placed 4th in dance, 2nd in solo; Kerstyn Herring who

placed 5th in solo and Shaelynn VanOirschot-Fowler who placed 5th in dance.

In wrestling news, congratulations to Chris Slikboer, who participated in the OFSSAA championships in Peterborough Mar. 5th-7th. Although going in with an injury and tearing his hamstring the first day of competition, Chris continued to wrestle, finishing 10th in his division. Congratulations to Chris and the entire wrestling team for a job well done this season.

The Cardinal Carter dance team continued a tradition of excellence as they participated in the provincial dance competition in North Bay, Mar. 2nd-4th.

In a competitive field of 470 dancers from 18 schools, the CC team returned with 6 first place

finishes and 3 second place finishes. Special congratulations to Sabrina Mastronardi who earned a trophy for Outstanding Choreography Performance for her Hip Hop Duet and to Chelsea Gaffan who took home the trophy for her Large Contemporary Number entitled "Taken".

The CC dancers are to be commended for representing Cardinal Carter with dignity, maturity, energy and enthusiasm.

What else is happening at CC?

Gr. 9 and 10 Progress reports were sent home Mar. 20th.

Best of luck to grade 10 students who will be writing the Literacy Test Mar. 29th.

MADD will give a presentation to gr. 11 and 12 students Mar. 29th.

Villanova art students have work immortalized in new Park House Museum exhibit

Ron Giofu
The Amherstburg Echo

LASALLE — The new exhibit being installed at the Park House Museum as part of War of 1812 Bicentennial celebrations has special meaning to some St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School art students.

Grade 12 art students helped create a mural that will be part of the upcoming trading post exhibit at the Park House, an exhibit that's anticipated to become a long-standing fixture at the community museum.

Students researched what was likely part of the trading post when it was actually based out of the Park House 200 years ago.

"It represents what it used to be like with materials in there that people would have traded with," said Mary Bastien, who headed up work on the mural with Jason Chappus and Lauren Reed.

Chappus drew up a sketch and did a rendering with the other students working on the mural based on that.

"He did a sketch and we kind of followed it," said Bastien.

Work began on the mural in late January and continued through last Friday morning when volunteers from the Park House Museum came and picked it up. Chappus said he, Bastien and Reed would often come in after school or on a spare and continue working on it.

"It's like our baby," he said.

Chappus said it will be a source of pride having the mural in the Park House for years.

"We can come back in 50 years and say 'I did that,'" he said.

Art teacher Lisa Bastien said the students put in a lot of work to make the mural a reality.

"These kids put in hours and hours every single day," said Bastien.



RON GIOFU The Amherstburg Echo

St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School art students completed a mural for the Park House Museum's new trading post exhibit on March 9. From left are Mary Bastien, Jason Chappus and Cory Hicks. Lauren Reed was absent.

Bastien said the students put in at least three or four hours daily on the project.

"This is a major commitment," she said. "They took it as a great opportunity and put their best foot forward. They kept growing and learning."

Three distinct painting styles came together to produce the mural, she added.

"It's a really unified effort," said Bastien.

Hazen Price and Paul Laframboise brought the mural back to the Park House and Price liked what he saw.

"It's great," said Price. "It's what we had to have for the wall."



RON GIOFU
The Amherstburg Echo

Grade 4/5 students at St. Bernard School went to "Zimmyville Typing Camp" last week. Teacher Candace Zimmerman said it was a way to help make typing fun.

'Typing camp' teaches the rules of the keyboard

Ron Giofu
The Amherstburg Echo

AMHERSTBURG — Grade 4 and 5 students at St. Bernard School learned the ins and outs of the keyboard, and they had fun doing it.

Teacher Candace Zimmerman put her students through "Zimmyville Typing Camp" last week, with the goal not only to be to learn typing, but to actually enjoy it at the same time.

"Typing can be boring and we're trying to make

it fun," said Zimmerman.

A tent was pitched and a "fire pit" established to enhance the experience for the class. Parents helped Zimmerman run the camp and acted as "rangers" during the week. Campfire stories helped the kids have a memorable experience as well.

"They love it," said Zimmerman.

It was the first year Zimmerman tried "Zimmyville Typing Camp" and it is likely she will do similar events in the future for her students.

"We're trying to do new activities to make learning fun," Zimmerman said.

schools

'I can't imagine that people can really be that hateful'

The following article was written by Emily Tong, a Grade 8 student at St. William Catholic School. It is a reflection written after she and her fellow Grade 8 students attended a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Before attending the museum, the Grade 8s were part of an experiment that the teachers put together to help them experience what it would feel like to be prejudiced against.

By Emily Tong

Special to Shoreline Week

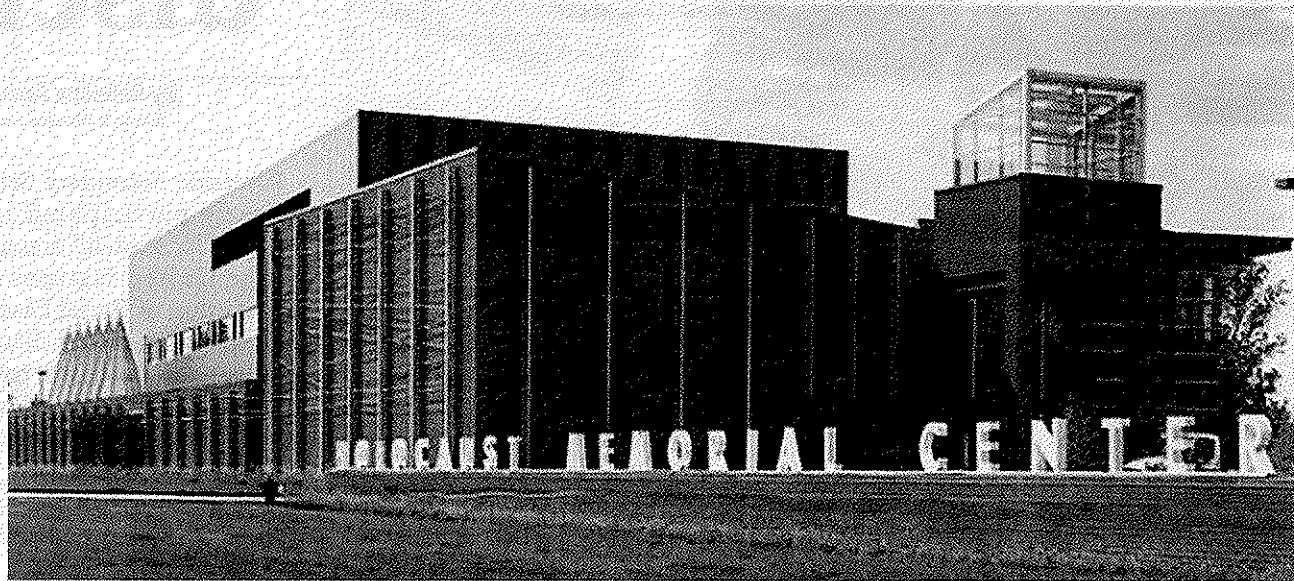
Our trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum was a moving experience. It showed me a side of humanity I didn't know could exist.

The "experiment" in the classroom that we did really showed me that people could and would change overnight.

Still, the whole thing is so unreal to me.

The videos that were shown, the stories that were told, I couldn't process as something real. I can't imagine that people can really be that hateful.

When the guides were talking to us about their past, it was heartbreaking. They still smiled, they still laughed, but did they forgive? Did they forget? No.



You could wake up each morning, wondering if it was a dream, but this is something that never leaves you. A wound that might never fully heal, a memory stamped on your mind forever.

How much can one person take? I don't know if I feel sympathy, or if I feel the pain too,

I know somewhere in this world, discrimination is

still going on today. Going through that museum showed me that we need to change.

There has to be a way to have a world free of hatred, a world where we can live together in harmony, and learn from our past mistakes.

The only thing left to question is, "Who will take action and when?"

French Week observed at St. Bernard

Echo Staff

AMHERSTBURG — A local school helped its students connect with French culture last week.

French Week was celebrated at St. Bernard School last week with five days worth of activities.

Last Monday saw Jour D'art (Art Day) observed while Tuesday saw the French café "Cafe des crepes" held. Last Wednesday was French movie day, dubbed "Le Cinema Francais" while Thursday featured "Les Activities D'hiver," or winter activities.

The week was capped Friday with "Le

Bal de Carnaval," a dance featuring Bonhomme Carnaval.

French teacher Ana-Maria Martinez said the week was to raise awareness of French culture and she thought it went "fairly well" for the most part.

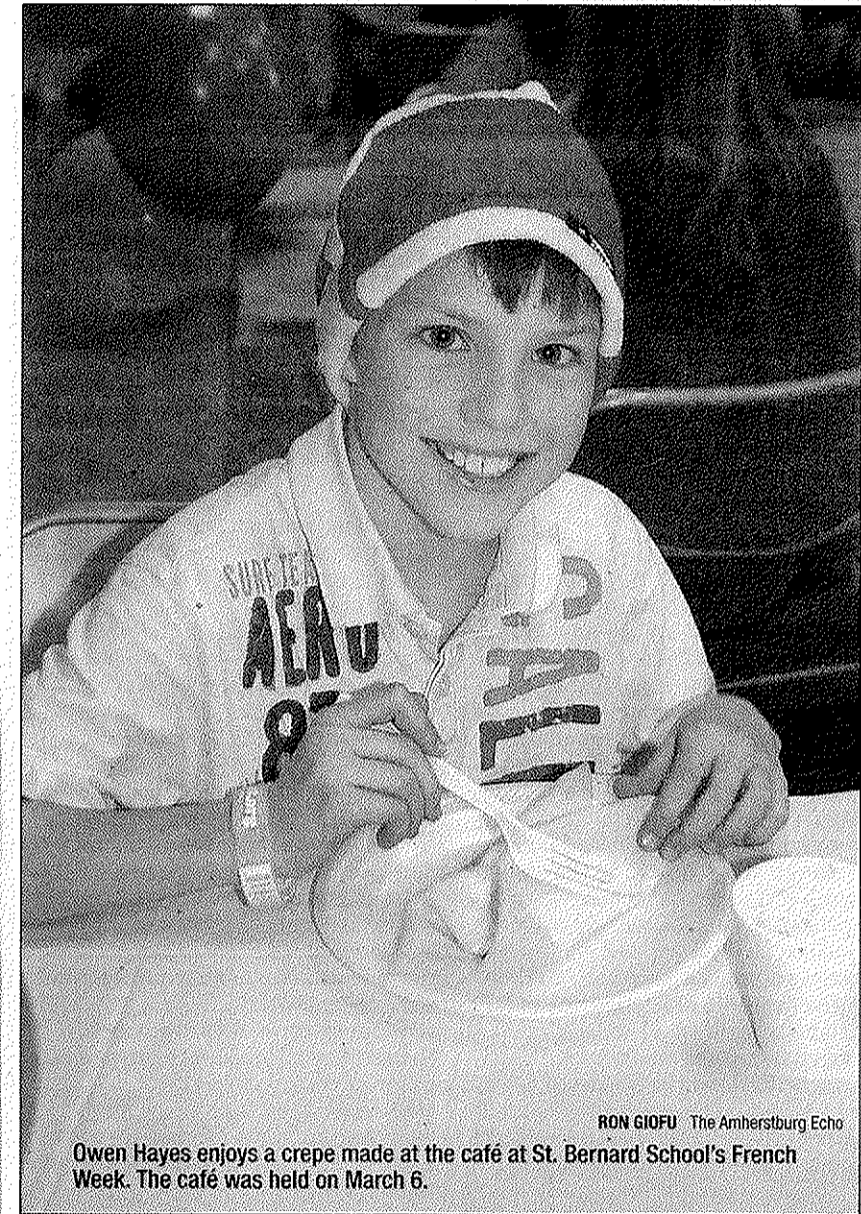
"Everything has been really good," Martinez said Friday. "For the first time for me planning it, it's been a fun experience."

Martinez believes the students are more aware of French culture and heritage than they were before.

"They are definitely more aware of French culture being in Canada, a bilingual country," she said.



RON GIOFU The Amherstburg Echo
French Week was celebrated at St. Bernard School last week. Kenzie Street, Julia Sokolik, Mercedes Bratt, Nick Meloche as Bonhomme, Lyndsi Banks, Madison Gammon, Brianna Lachance, Kaitlyn Drouillard and Conner Faucher helped celebrate the week on March 9.



RON GIOFU The Amherstburg Echo

Owen Hayes enjoys a crepe made at the café at St. Bernard School's French Week. The café was held on March 6.