Local robotics team competing in Australia



The Holy Name Catholic Elementary School's all-girls robotics team has worked hard all year and now has the chance to represent Canada and compete at FIRST Lego League International Competition in Sydney, Australia. Here, the team and their coaches stands with local community leaders MP Tracey Ramsey, far left and MPP Taras Natyshak, far left. The local government representatives are working to get the team endorsed by the heads of provincial and federal government.

by Shelby Wye

The grade 8 all-girls robotics team Element of Surprise from Holy Name Catholic Elementary School is looking to raise \$55,000 so they can attend the FIRST Lego League International Competition in Sydney, Australia.

On Wednesday, April 27, Essex NDP MP Tracey Ramsey and NDP MP Taras Natyshak invited the team and their teachers to come to their office so they can show their support. They have sent out a message to local community leaders, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Kathleen Wynne to meet with and endorse the team.

"What is even more exciting than this opportunity is your future," said Natyshak. He said that the students' achievements and interest in the field will help broaden their choices of careers as they progress through school. Ramsey said it was very exciting to hear of all the achievements of the team and she honestly hopes that they will soon get to meet the Prime Minister.

Ramsey and Natyshak said it is important to encourage young women, especially those from rural communities, to show how innovative and resourceful they can be, to pursue STEM careers and ask our provincial and national leaders to do the same.

This is the Element of Surprise's first year, and they already has a string of accomplishments. They placed first in a local competition, and placed third in the First Lego League Provincial Robotics Competition held in Waterloo and won a Global Innovation Award.

The team, made up of Grade 8 girls Emma Beaulieu, Sarah Busch, Mackenzie Cassidy, Judah Mckinley, Emily Stanley, Jessica Tannous, Megan Thorne and Samantha Wise, with coaches Mike Lamoureux, Mike Nadalin, and Dave Kostanjevec.

Lamoureux said the girls have always acted as a team, even before the Element of Surprise was created. He said they worked extremely hard throughout the year and are a competitive group who doesn't forget to have fun. Kostanjevec said that this year was absolutely enchanted for the girls.

"Everything fell into place this year, which makes sense since they worked really hard," said Kostanjevec. He said the girls success was extremely rewarding for the coaches.

The girls will be leaving for Australia in early July. They will be in the county for over a week, so they can balance working hard for the competition with learning more about Australia's culture. But, before they can go down under, they need your help to raise funds.

People can make their donations through their online fundraiser at www.gofundme.com/ElementofSurprise. More information can be found online at www.essexcanada robotics.ca, via email at essexcanadarobotics@gmail.com or 226 340 1556.

Stanthony competes in



MacKenzie Atanasio, left, and Katelyn Medeiros, right, won top prize for the "Most Exciting Ride" at the WonderCoaster Contest held at Canada's Wonderland this past weekend.

by Shelby Wye

St Anthony Catholic Elementary School students went to Canada's Wonderland to compete in the 21st Annual WonderCoaster Building Contest on May 6.

There were 43 Grade 7 and 8 students that went to Vaughn. They entered their three best roller coasters. One of their coasters, which was created by MacKenzie Atanasio and Katelyn Medeiros won top prize for the "Most Exciting Ride". Principal Carl Bull said this contest helped to encourage

students to follow the school's philosophy.

"We need to apply what we learn. These lessons just aren't for writing on the chalk board. They're for using in real life. That's the best way to learn for the students," said Bull.

Bull said the weekend was made possible by the financial donation from the Kcettes and Knights of Columbus. They received \$2,300 from the organization to cover the costs of the bus and some other expenses.

The classes had a

weekend of fun, friendly competition and of course the chance to enjoy the many thrilling roller coasters of Canada's Wonderland.

Bull said it was a good experience for their students to meet with other junior engineers. He said the chance for the competing schools to learn from one another is a great opportunity.

This competition encourages the inner engineer to design and build their best ideas for the next jawdropping roller coaster. This competition blends fun with

HARROW NEWS

MAY 10, 2016

Nonder Coaster contest



The Grade 7 and 8 classes of St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School had the chance to compete in the WonderCoaster contest last weekend. Their inner engineers were challenged as they were required to make a functioning roller coaster with their knowledge of gravity and physics. They also learned a lot about real coasters as they were allowed to spend some of their weekend having fun on all the rides.

physics, where the students are challenged to learn about gravity-driven rides and kinetic energy. All projects stay at the school during constructions which guarantees no outside help beyond what is offered in the classroom.

"We were incredibly proud of our kids, and could not believe the community support that made our endeavour possible. Our students have responded in kind to the Kcette and Knights organizations by subsequently volunteering at numerous charity events including their craft sale, rib night and breakfasts at the hall," said Bull in an email.

schools MAY 12, 2016

St. John The **Evangelist Catholic** School and Hydro One Help Celebrate 'Arbour Week'



Last Tuesday May 3, Hydro One Forestry employees, Jeff Sadler, Mark McLennan, Rob Sandwith, Adam Bates, Dustin Tindall and Christine Pettypiece, attended St. John the Evangelist Catholic School to help celebrate Arbour Week. Students and teachers attended the presentation and helped in the tree planting of a Sugar Maple and Tulip tree in the front of the main entrance of the school.

Through the Hydro One Arbour week tree planting program, the history and importance behind Arbour day were discussed, as well as the role as foresters in the maintenance of trees near the hydro lines. The students were asked to give examples of why trees are so important and the benefits to which they provide. They were eager to participate and there were some very intelligent answers.

Safety was also discussed, including the importance of tree placement in the relation to hydro lines, as well as, the dangers of climbing trees in proximity to live conductors.

The students and teachers got to feel first hand of how using simple blocks and pulleys, a mechanical advantage is gained and allows us to lift and pull more weight with less effort, and how foresters use this advantage in the forestry trade. They seemed to really enjoy being able to participate in this hands on activity. Other demonstrations included an aerial bucket rescue, and safety and importance of various Hydro One forestry tools.

The students were thanked for participating in the event and for helping to raise awareness about Arbour week. They were given White Spruce seedlings and encouraged to take them home and plant with their families. A special thanks to Floods Nursery in Leamington for the help of providing the trees for the event.



Ford Driving Skills for Life



St. Anne Catholic High School students, from left, Matthew Brockman, David Alvarez and Lauren Dunn took part in the Ford Driving Skills for Life program last week at the WFCU.

St. Anne students learn the rules of the road

Story and Photo by Matt Weingarden Staff Reporter

Last week, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited returned to Windsor with its award-winning Ford Driving Skills for Life program, enhanced by the all-new Ford Drugged Driving Suit.

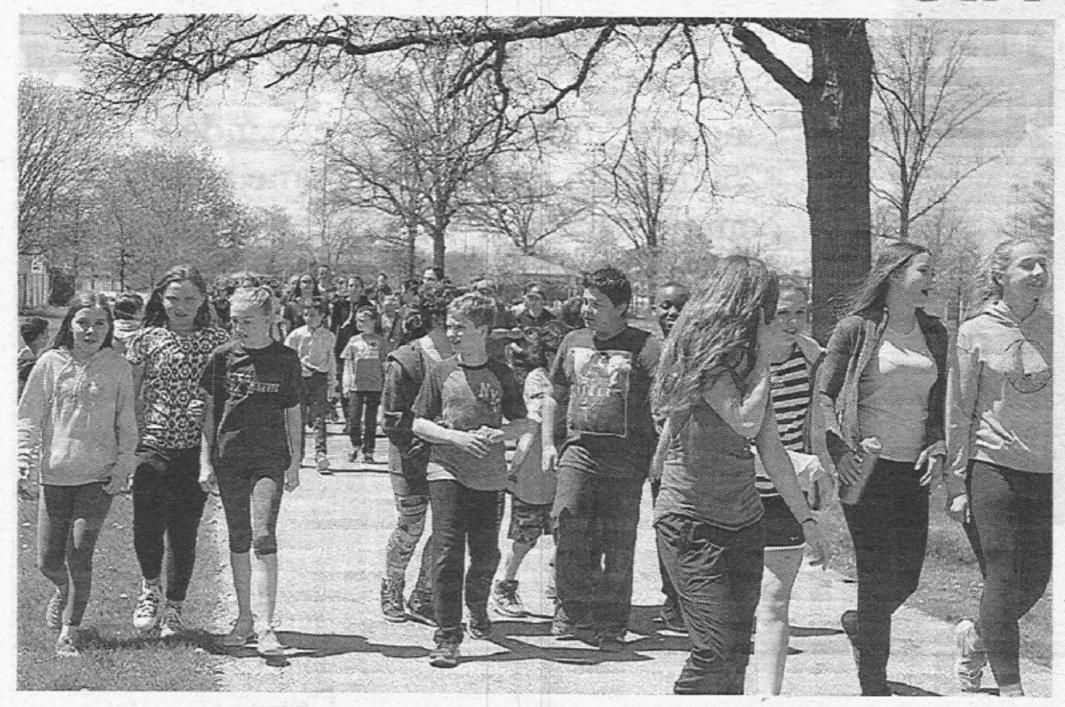
New drivers from Windsor and surrounding area will again participate in the program over two days at no cost, experiencing advanced hands-on driver training and education in a safe and controlled environment. The enhanced skills and unique perspective gained by participants are not available through traditional drivers' education programs,

We are excited to build on the success of last year by bringing this comprehensive program back to Windsor, along with the all-new in-

novative Ford Drugged Driving Suit," said Caroline Hughes, vice president, Government Relations, Ford of Canada. "By offering valuable hands-on training, particularly in challenging scenarios, Ford is able to offer the community an educational and memorable experience for new drivers."

Carefully modified vehicles and professional instructors were onsite to guide new drivers through each driving exercise, building skills in four key areas: driver distraction, speed and space management, vehicle handling and hazard recognition. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to properly correct an over steer (in a Ford Mustang), avoid hazards with quick reaction times and experience the dangers of distracted and impaired driving in a safe-and-simulated environment.

SMORELINE



St. Pius X Catholic School students are pictured during their Faith Walk at Lacasse Park last Thursday. It was one of many activities they participated in during their celebration of Catholic Education Week.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Sarkis

US X

MAY 13, 2016.

Pacers celebrate Catholic Education Week with numerous activities

St. Pius X School celebrated Catholic Education Week.

We participated in many activities throughout the week including Jesus Bingo, a Faith Walk, school masses, and a presentation from Saidat.

The Grade 8 students led the Jesus Bingo in each class. Each class won a prize.

The Faith Walk included a prayer and song by the Grade 1 students.

Saidat – a motivational speaker, singer, and entertainer – inspired and encouraged the students in school.

The presentation was followed by a hip hop lesson.

The students were very enthusiastic for the it and had a lot of fun doing it.

We also sold bracelets for Child Life. The students could purchase the bracelets for \$2 each and all proceeds went to Child Life.

Thank you to the Parent Council, and staff for organizing the events for us and to Saidat for coming to our school.

Written by Sean Breault

TOUR FOR HUMANITY

St. Joseph's and Brennan students to get intensive human rights lessons this month in mobile classroom

Hundreds of students in Catholic schools across Windsor-Essex County will get an intensive lesson on the importance of speaking out against hate and intolerance when the Tour for Humanity (T4H) visits the region.

A mobile human rights education centre, the T4H was created by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies to teach students, educators, and community leaders about topics of diversity, democracy, and Canadian civic rights and responsibilities.

"At our present point in history, with all of the issues and conflicts our world is currently facing, the need to educate our students about the virtues of acceptance, respect, and understanding has never been more vital or urgent," said WECDSB director of education Paul Picard.

"These ideals are already woven throughout our curriculum, but with its high-tech capabilities and expert facilitators, the Tour for Humanity's message will resonate with our students on an entirely new level."

At a cost of \$1.2 million to design and build, T4H is a 30-seat, wheelchair accessible, state-of-the-art tour bus that has been transformed into an advanced mobile education centre that presents information on the consequences of hate and intolerance.

The bus tours around Ontario, typically making day trips to various locations. It is visiting four WECDSB secondary schools and six WECDSB elementary schools from May 9-20, including St. Joseph's Catholic High School on Monday, May 16 and Brennan Catholic High School on Thursday, May 19.

'Extremely impressed'.

"After touring concentration camps in Poland and visiting Israel with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, we were extremely impressed by the organization's depth of knowledge and expertise, and its commitment to promoting human rights," said WECDSB superintendent of education Mike Seguin, who has been helping organize the local tour.

"We felt their message was far too important to limit to just a one-day visit, and we wanted as many of our students as possible to participate in this amaz-

ing experience."

Content during the visit will include workshops on the Holocaust, universal genocide, and such real heroes as Martin Luther King Jr., Anne Frank, and Mahatma Gandhi; Canadian experiences with slavery, residential schools, and the internment of Japanese Canadians, and; bullying, prejudice, racism, anti-Semitism, and how students can make the world a better place.

Please visit TourForHumanity.com for more information



St. Anthony School Hosts Talent

by Shelby Wye

St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School hosted a talent show last Wednesday night, May 11.

Kate Marentette, a Grade 3 teacher, helped organize the events with five other teachers. But, she said it wouldn't have happened without the kids.

"It was around January when the students came up to me asking if we were going to do another play or a talent show," she said, and she gave them two months to sort out what they would want to do for the show. They decided to do a talent show. Try outs followed, then practising and then dress rehearsals until finally the big night arrived. Paige Da Silva was one of the many students involved in the talent show. She took part in two different acts, both for singing and dancing. She said at first she was nervous but by the time she was slotted to take stage the second time she was ready. She said it went really well.

"I like it because you get a round of applause at the end. You feel a little bit like you're famous," she said.

Ethan Moore signed up to wow the crowd with his magic tricks. Moore said he has been practising with

magic since he was between four and five. This talent show was the first time he has performed in front of such a large audience.

"I was a little nervous," he admitted after his performance. It went well, but he is already thinking about learning some new magic tricks to add to his repertoire the next time the talent show rolls around.

Marentette said that every year the kids and the parents love the show. She said the students were pretty excited to help put it together. Besides showing their talents, the St. Anthony students also wanted to help others. Those who attended were encouraged to bring canned goods so they could donate them to the Harrow Food Bank.

The first show was held during the day at 1 p.m. and the second was an evening show at 6 p.m. The line-up started with Celina and Alyssa who tap-danced to 'Little Mix', Josh Bezdan, Paige Da Silva, Shelby Carvalho who sang 'Let It Go'. Mackenzie Atanasio came up next on piano to play various melodies, Josh Stone, Kadence Sim, Drake Merner, Zach Major and Zack Moore performed three

different comedy skits, Kaylee DaSilva sang 'Piece by Piece'. Kaitlyn Wickham danced to 'Cannonball'. Julie Desroisers, Sarah Almeida and Shelby Carvalho sang '7 Years'. Hunter Barbeau sang "The Magic Inside", Noelle Bezdon sang "Echo", Paige Da Silva, Lily Struhar, Michaela Struhar, Grace Jessop sang/dance to "Overcomer".

Ethan Moore performed a couple magic tricks with the assistance of Dom Gomes and Olivia, Ashton Sim, Neil Adams, Kayla Gomes, Grace Hammer, Izzy Gough, Sophie Teves, Mackenzie Vincent and Alyssa Curtis performed 'Watch Me Whip'. Trinity Stone and Samantha Greco sang 'One Away'. Macey Deleebeeck and Hailey St. Pierre danced to "We Are Never Getting Back Together". Nicole Gyorgy sang 'Human'. Tabetha Gomes and Morgan DeleeBeeck sang 'Stitches'. Celest Merner sang 'Black Gold'. Landon Dumouchelle sang 'Kick The Dust Up'. Brooklyn DaSilva sang "God Bless The Broken Road".

And, of course the show wouldn't be possible without the people who kept things running. The masters of ceremonies for the night were Brennah Bouliane and Faith Stone. The program/ green room directors were Ceira Bridgen, Morgan Jenner, Leanna Digiovanni and the masters of technology were Mark Azzopardi, Brendan Jenner, Andrew Clark, Josh Caixeiro.



Major and Zack Moore showed off their natural knack for comedy. Here, two students reenact what it might be like if J.R.R. Tolkien's Gandalf was teaching at their school.

Ethan Moore set out to dazzle with his card tricks at the talent show. He successfully pulled out the correct cards of his assistance multiple times and also followed the most important rule of all: never revealing his secrets.



Noelle Bezdon sang the Kaylee DaSilva had a soulful and dramatic song 'Echo' for the crowd.



beautiful rendition of Kelly Clarkson's Piece by Piece.



Hunter Barbeau's personality shined during his performance of 'The Magic Inside'.

Pictured right - Lily Struhar, Palge DaSilva, Grace Jessop, Michaela Struhar. There was nothing these girls couldn't do when you put them on stage. In-sync dancing, singing and smiling, these friends clearly were ready to show their talents at this show.



DrumFIT exercise comes to Stella Maris

Rivertown Times May 10th, 2016 By Ron Giofu

Students at Stella Maris School got a chance to get some exercise in a somewhat untraditional way last week.

Val Shah and Lila Ferguson from DrumFIT were in last Thursday with their large exercise balls and drumsticks with children given a chance at a different form of fitness. Some adults got in on the action as well.

"It's a cardiovascular program and we include brain exercises," said Shah. "It's a fun way to get them moving."

The activity was put to music with various routines performed. Ferguson also noted it is "exercise for the brain and body and it lets them have fun in school."

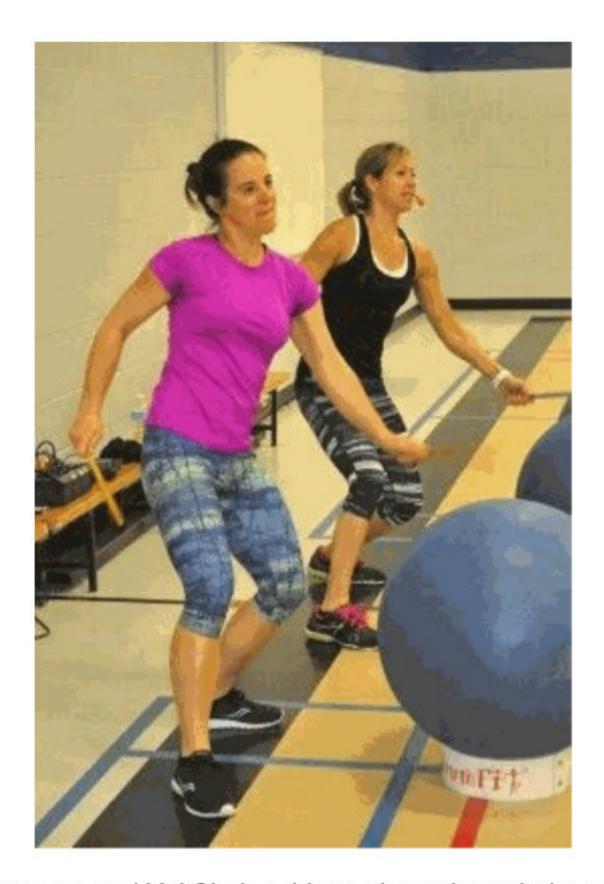


Parent council at Stella Maris School brought in DrumFIT exercise courses last Thursday where students and adults alike were able to get some physical activity and have fun at the same time. Students enjoy drumming on the balls with their drumsticks.

"It allows kids to be kids," added Shah. "They get to move, have fun, be loud and express themselves."

The classes at Stella Maris lasted about 40 minutes each with all grade levels taking part.

"This is also a really good program for both boys and girls and for people of all ages," said Ferguson.



Lila Ferguson and Val Shah guide students through the routines last Thursday at Stella Maris.

The DrumFIT program has been taught to people from two to 96-years-old, Shah added, and can be brought to seniors homes, pre-schools or to people with special needs. For more information, visit www.drum.fit.

The program was brought to Stella Maris thanks to the work of the school's parent council, known as the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC). The Stella Maris CSAC got a \$550 grant last year and this year's CSAC also contributed money towards it.

Holy Cross students form 'Human Rosary'

Kelly Steele, Windsor Star May 13, 2016 5:34 PM EDT

Watch Video at: http://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/holy-cross-students-form-human-rosary

But don't tell the staff and students at the school, who believe it's a symbol that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is looking over the school.

Principal Steve Bellaire said the school was built after the road was already there and named. He said no one gave it a thought until recently when it was pointed out that Mary Street leads right up to the Cross hanging on the front of the school.

"We are looking at it that it's not just an accident," he said. "The school was built after the road was named. After it was brought to our attention the whole thing kind of took on a life of its own. We think it's a sign that Mary is always looking out for the staff and students of Holy Cross."



Students, staff and families from Holy Cross Catholic School in LaSalle, Ontario form a human chain in celebration of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13, 2016. May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. Fr. Michael Parent from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church led an outdoor mass under sunny skies and warm temperatures. LaSalle Police were kind in assisting in traffic control while the roads were blocked. (JASON KRYK/WINDSOR STAR)

In celebration, the school's 750 staff and students held a Mary Meets the Cross celebration on Friday. They formed a circular rosary beginning at the front door, onto Mary street and back to the school.

The celebration seemed fitting since the month of May is the Celebration of Mary. Speakers were set up outside to guide the students into proper position, LaSalle police officers helped block off the street and local dignitaries and other special guests attended.

"It was interesting that all of this was right at our front door," Bellaire said. "It just felt like something we should celebrate."

St. Louis school joins clean water effort Southpoint Sun By Bryan Jessop May 10, 2016





All 340 students at St. Louis Catholic Elementary School take place in a water bucket filling exercise across the school's courtyard Thursday, May 5. Students carried the buckets of water a distance of about 500 metres to fill 80-litre containers before heading back to the school to repeat the process until their classroom's container was filled. The event was presented to give students an understanding of how inaccessible clean drinking water is for the residents of underdeveloped countries across the globe. The school is one of four in Essex County participating in a fundraiser to raise \$10,000 to have a permanent 'water pillar' installed in the Ecuadorian village of Kanambu.

This year's Catholic Education Week was no typical geography lesson for students at St. Louis Catholic Elementary School. Presented with a board-wide theme of 'Opening the Doors of Mercy' this year, St. Louis students of all grades spent the week learning about the importance of sustainable support for the citizens of underprivileged nations across the globe. Students heard presentations from local organizations including St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael's Parish, the South Essex Community Council, Hearts For Haiti and at the end of the week, a description of a REACH program focusing on the construction of a new school in Uganda.

On Thursday, May 5, the Leamington-based elementary school was paid a visit from the student-operated Social Justice League from Brennan Catholic High School in Windsor.

The Social Justice Forum centered around a verbal and photo projection presentation made by Brennan students who traveled to the South American nation of Ecuador to assist with a school construction project in the village of Kanambu. A trio from the Social Justice League's membership shared experiences and stories from the Dec. 28 to Jan. 6 adventure, a Free The Children initiative. The presentation was followed by a rotating series of in school workshops led by the group of 15 Brennan visitors for Grades 3 to 8 students. Grade 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 groups took turns being presented with a wealth and power demonstration dubbed 'Beatrice's Goat', learning about the parameters of sustainable income and the importance of reliable access to safe drinking water. "It's been an amazing week," said St. Louis principal Kelly Rilley, explaining that most of the school's international charity efforts are done in conjunction with Free The Children. "These lessons work so well with 'Opening the Doors of Mercy'." The access to safe water workshop turned out to be a focal point for Opening the Doors of Mercy that afternoon, as each of the 340 St. Louis students took part in a water carrying exercise, repeatedly transporting buckets of water to 80-litre containers on the other side of the school's courtyard over a one-way distance of about half a kilometre. Moments earlier, principal Rilley and vice principal Ruth Paesano explained to a gymnasium full of students that a family of four uses about 80 litres of water per day to survive. At that time, they also revealed to the junior kindergarten to Grade 8 gathering that the school would be participating in a fundraiser to have a 'water pillar' built in Kanambu. Along with Brennan and Windsor Catholic elementary schools St. Garbriel and St. Rose, St. Louis will send a full-size water cooler bottle to each classroom to be filled with change and other small monetary donations. The four schools are hoping to raise the \$10,000 needed to build the water pillar. "Most kids don't realize that many people can't just go

to a tap for water in other parts of the world," Rilley noted. "We're showing them how hard some people have to work for basic sustenance."

Local students take the "Tour for Humanity"

Rivertown Times May 13th, 2016 @ 5:35 pm By Ron Giofu

A \$1.2 million mobile classroom built by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies made its way to a pair of Amherstburg schools this week.

The "Tour for Humanity" bus was in the first week of a two-week tour of the area and was brought to the region by the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. It was at St. Bernard School Wednesday and Stella Maris School Thursday.



Students at Stella Maris School prepare to watch a video regarding the holocaust during the Tour for Humanity's stop at the school May 12. It was brought to the area by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

Danny Berman, an educational associate with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, said they tour all year long with the bus and have been doing so since it was built two years ago. They try to hit all parts of Ontario.

"We're pretty much booked every day of the school year," said Berman. "(The students) leave pretty impressed with the bus and it motivates them to make a change and a positive impact."

Not only do educational associates like Berman talk about the horrors of the Holocaust, they also share messages of racism, slavery, Japanese internment camps, and hate. The presentation also discussed cyber-bullying and Berman told students that is "a great way to spread hate" without feeling they are exposed the same level of consequences in doing so.



Educational associate Danny Berman speaks to a local class May 12.

"We show how they are all connected," said Berman, adding they want people to take action against such things, not be a bystander to them. The centre encourages people to make a positive change.

The presentations also pointed out those who have made a positive difference in the world such as Martin Luther King Jr., Anne Frank and Mahatma Gandhi, though students were also told even small acts of kindness do make a difference.

"At our present point in history, with all of the issues and conflicts our world is currently facing, the need to educate our students about the virtues of acceptance, respect, and understanding has never been more vital or urgent," said WECDSB director of education Paul Picard in a press release. "These ideals are already woven throughout our curriculum, but with its high-tech capabilities and expert facilitators, the Tour for Humanity's message will resonate with our students on an entirely new level."

The bus, once it has finished its stops in the area May 20, will have visited four secondary schools and six elementary schools.



The Tour for Humanity mobile classroom sits outside Stella Maris School May 12.

"After touring concentration camps in Poland and visiting Israel with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, we were extremely impressed by the organization's depth of knowledge and expertise, and its commitment to promoting human rights," added WECDSB superintendent of education Mike Seguin, who has been helping organize the local tour. "We felt their message was far too important to limit to just a one-day visit, and we wanted as many of our students as possible to participate in this amazing experience."

For further information on the Tour for Humanity, visit http://tourforhumanity.com/

Strong results reported at "Drive One 4 UR School" held at Villanova

Rivertown Times May 10th, 2016 @ 4:35 pm By Ron Giofu

A "Drive One 4 UR School" test drive event was held Saturday at St. Thomas of Villanova Secondary School with organizers reporting strong results.

The Catholic secondary school teamed with Joe Meloche Ford on the event with a steady flow of people being reported to have attended for test drives. Actual results won't be confirmed for a few weeks, but both dealer principal Shirley Meloche and teacher/coach Colin Lesperance said the "Drive One 4 UR School" event was often busy.

"We're doing awesome. It's been busy. We've had a lot of people," said Lesperance. "We are very thankful to Joe Meloche Ford. We are glad to see them supporting the cause."

Proceeds will benefit the junior and senior boys and girls basketball team at Villanova, said Lesperance. While he is a basketball coach at the school, he is also a special education teacher and said a special education bus could also have proceeds put towards it if there is enough money raised.

"A lot of people drove by, saw it and stopped in," he said. "We are hoping to do quite well."

Lesperance believes the test drive event also benefited from a Catz Meow dance recital that was going on inside the school at the same time. While it was coincidental the events overlapped during the afternoon, Lesperance believed they got a few test drives from people going into the recital.

Word-of-mouth and social media helped spread the word of the event, Lesperance added, with former students also coming back to help current students.

"It's been a total team effort thus far," he said.

For every test drive taken at Villanova, the school's basketball program, and possibly its special education program, stands to make \$20 each.