

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Bethlehem Catholic High School earns prestigious designation as UNESCO school**

Bethlehem Catholic High School in Saskatoon has become only the third UNESCO school in Saskatchewan.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) promotes peace and co-operation through education. Approximately 8300 schools around the world are part of the UNESCO network. In Saskatchewan, Bethlehem joins schools in Hafford and Hazlet.

These schools have committed to UNESCO's four pillars of learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Learning to Know, Learning to Be, Learning to Do, and Learning to Live Together.

To become a UNESCO school Bethlehem was required to complete a two-year candidacy period. During that time it submitted a detailed list of its social justice activities and based on those actions the designation was granted. (A backgrounder describing a selection of the activities undertaken during the 2008-09 school year is attached.) With official UNESCO status Bethlehem is now able to participate in local and global events with other schools.

Staff and students at Bethlehem will celebrate their new UNESCO designation by raising the UNESCO flag at their school for the first time ever this Thursday after a brief school assembly. The event coincides with the school's Terry Fox Run.

Media are invited to attend. Details are as follows:

1:40 p.m. – **Assembly**  
2:10 p.m. – **Flag-raising and school photo**  
2:20 p.m. – **Terry Fox Walk/Run begins**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2009**  
**Bethlehem Catholic High School**  
**110 Bowlt Crescent**

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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## Backgrounder

### Learning to Know (acquiring knowledge):

1. Remembrance Day ceremony – We honoured the veterans of 20<sup>th</sup> century wars and then had students display signs showing 40+ current conflicts.
2. 360 Lesson #3 (all grades) – Students and staff explored the websites of Canadian ultra marathoner Ray Zahab, founder of the organization Impossible to Possible (I2P). This organization strives to raise awareness and funds for children in poverty, global warming, and other environmental issues (ex. water scarcity in Africa).
3. Development and Peace Conference/Retreat – Seven students attended this event to learn about different ways to raise awareness and funds for international efforts.
4. Anne-Marie Verbil – This police officer spoke of her experience as a 9/11 first responder in 2001. Her message was one of hope, solidarity, and removing ethnicity barriers. All (350) grade 9 students heard her presentation.
5. Fresh I.E. – Christian rapper who spoke about his life-changing experience and the importance of faith.
6. Rev. Mpho Tutu (Desmond Tutu's daughter) – Spoke to the school; her message was that we are all precious gifts from God and need to use those gifts to make changes in the world, starting with small things.

### Learning to Be (developing values):

1. Tree of Hope – Students and staff put the names of loved ones (victims of cancer or cancer survivors), on leaves of a tree on the wall of the Commons.
2. "Flick off" campaign – Students organized this campaign; once a week we have all lights, computers, etc. off for 15 minutes (during 360) as an awareness of energy consumption.
3. Field of Remembrance – Students and staff were encouraged to write the names of veterans (any war) on paper poppies and post them around the Commons.
4. Recycling and Waste awareness – Students checked that all rooms have containers for paper recycling and bottle/can recycling, to reduce waste sent to the landfill. Labels are being made for all rooms.
5. Africa/Kip Keino Day (May 25) – The SRC organized various games and activities for the whole school, in honour of Africa Day and our partnership with Kip Keino High School.

### Learning to Do (practising know-how):

1. Penny Drop Competition – Part of the Penny Campaign (see below) was a community-building activity in our 360s. Classes worked on creative "penny drops," using recyclable materials to build things like catapults, pulleys and race tracks, all to make the penny donations fun.
2. Penny Rolling – Student volunteers spent several noon hours counting and wrapping over \$600 in coins (mostly pennies!) from the Penny Campaign.

3. Wax on Wax Off – Students collected money (to a set goal) and then got to watch as various male staff members had arms/legs/chests waxed. The \$1000 went to Development and Peace, an international aid organization.
4. Cake Auction – Students volunteered to bake and decorate cakes that were then auctioned off (by a real auctioneer who donated his time and talent) at noon. The \$1600 went to Development and Peace.
5. Suicide Prevention Commercials – A class project saw groups of students create, film, edit, and present commercials for Suicide Prevention Week.
6. Fair Trade Chocolate/Hot Chocolate sales – Student volunteers sold various Fair Trade products as an awareness campaign.

### **Learning to Live Together** (expressing attitudes):

1. Stand up against Poverty – All staff and students took part in the one-minute pledge; we were counted in the 116 million people worldwide who took a stand against poverty in October 2008 in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals.
2. Halloween for Hunger – Collected food for Guadalupe House.
3. Christmas Hampers for St. Mary's Parish - Thirty hampers of food were filled by students and staff; these were then delivered by St. Mary's Parish to needy single adults just before Christmas.
4. Jingle Bell Run – Thirty students and staff took part in the annual fundraising run for the Arthritis Society.
5. Collection of jackets, mitts, scarves – Collected for the Friendship Inn.
6. Collection of shoes – Collected about 75 pairs of shoes for Brainsport to send to Kenya.
7. Umbrella Nepal project - Staff donated money to send to this project, to help teachers in Nepal. (This was part of World Teacher Day, Oct. 5)
8. Bicycles for Humanity – We collected 18 bikes for this project to be sent to Namibia (with about 1000 from other groups).
9. Tshelanyemba Container project - We collected 20 boxes of binders, pencils, pens, books, etc. to send to Zimbabwe. (Teacher Eileen Laverty also performed at a fundraiser for the project. Collectively: one ton of supplies.)
10. Penny Campaign – Students planned this campaign which encouraged everyone to donate pennies/spare change. A total of \$600 was raised in February/March; all proceeds went to the Friendship Inn.
11. Pay it Forward – A grade 10 Christian Ethics class did this project: in groups of four, they had to come up with a way to benefit others and the goal was to create a chain of positive events. Some tried to see how many people they could get to smile, some planned awareness and fundraiser campaigns for charity, one group collected clothes for the Salvation Army.
12. Buddy Program with Exceptional Learners – Students paired up with “exceptional students” to do various activities such as shopping, movies, playing games, going for walks. (These are students who are often excluded because of learning disabilities and physical problems.)
13. Bridge City Boogie – Over 100 Bethlehem students and staff took part in a 2km/5km/10km walk or run; this project raised money for local literacy programs.