HISTORICA FAIR A GREAT SUCCESS

Approximately 60 students from nine elementary and junior high schools participated in the Halifax Regional Historica Fair on May 5. Canadian history came to life as the Gordon Bell gymnasium bustled with students dressed in loyalist, fur trader, musician, soldier, RCMP attire and other symbolic costumes. Morning workshops offered insight as students learned the craft of knot-making, the art of storytelling and the importance of Nova Scotia Heritage. Among the numerous awards, two students, Taylor MacIntosh of Crichton Park and Rita-Clair LeBlanc from Fairview Junior High, will move on to Nationals in Lethbridge, Alberta. Three other students were chosen to represent the HRSB at the provincials. Committee members, parent volunteers and judges were extremely pleased with this year’s event. Historica Fairs are a great reminder of how student learning often extends beyond our schools and into the heart of our community.

MATH ON WITH MATH OLYMPIAD

On May 12 the first Junior High Regional Math Olympiad was held at Dalhousie University. Astral Drive, Bedford South, Bicentennial, Cornwallis, Gorsebrook and Ridecliff schools had advanced to this competition from Zone competitions in April. More than 450 students participated in organizing, presenting and participating. In addition, many more students participated in mini math class olympiad competitions during the school year. The Regional and Zone competitions were a great success! Students, teachers, parents and invited guests alike were united in their praise and are all looking forward to next year’s competitions. Congratulations to all participants and in particular to Gorsebrook for winning the TD Canada Trust First Place Champion Trophy and Astral Drive for winning the Skit Ferguson Engineering Challenge Trophy. A well deserved “Math On” to all our students!

JOSEPH GILES STUDENTS EXPLORE TECHNOLOGY

A group of grade 5 students at Joseph Giles Elementary participated in an Exploravision project where their task was to take an ordinary piece of technology and modify it into something we may see in the future. The students took a hairdryer and made modifications so that it could crimp, streak, and curl hair at their redesign of an ordinary hairdryer. The students took a hairdryer United States and our students were awarded an Honorable mention for More than 5,000 entries were received from across Canada and the event involved high school students from across Canada who were eligible through winning various school, regional, and/or provincial/territorial competitions in one of five categories: Core French (basic), Extended Core, Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion and Francophone. Both Sarah and Maneesha were awarded $2,000 entrance scholarships from the University of Ottawa and $2,000 entrance scholarships for Université Sainte-Anne.

HALIFAX WEST STUDENTS WIN CPF AWARDS

Two Halifax West students received awards at the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) National Concours d’art oratoire 2007 in May. Sarah MacVicar took second place in the Early Immersion category and Maneesha Rajora took third in the Extended Core French category. The event involved high school students from across Canada who were eligible through winning various school, regional, and/or provincial/territorial competitions in one of five categories: Core French (basic), Extended Core, Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion and Francophone. Both Sarah and Maneesha were awarded $2,000 entrance scholarships from the University of Ottawa and $2,000 entrance scholarships for Université Sainte-Anne.

STUDENTS SHOW OFF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

The 2007 Entrepreneurial Showcase, co-hosted by BMO Financial Group and The Learning Partnership, took place at Mic Mac Mall on June 1. The showcase featured business ventures created by students from seven HRSB schools. The grade 8 Late French Immersion class from Leslie Thomas Junior High received one of 11 National Student Innovation Awards along with a cheque for $500 from BMO Financial Group. In addition to Leslie Thomas, the following schools participated: Joseph Giles, Hammonds Plains Consolidated, Portland Estates, St. Catherine’s, St. Joseph’s - A. McKay and St. Stephen’s. The showcase was one of five taking place across the country.

TEACHER RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Susan McKay, literacy coordinator at Georges P. Vanier, Harold T. Barrett and Lockview, has received much deserved recognition for her exemplary work on her Master’s thesis, Truth Be Told: The Effects of Sexual Orientation on the Lives of Lesbian Educators. Susan received the Governor General's Medal from Mount Saint Vincent University and the Canadian Society for the Study of Education awarded her both the Canadian Association for Teacher Education Thesis Award and the Canadian Association for the Study of Women in Education Award. Some university officials have also expressed interest in using her nearly 400-page thesis as a text for education courses. Congratulations Susan!

SOUTHDALE-NORTH WOODSIDE ACCREDITED

Southdale-North Woodside Elementary is the first HRSB school to be awarded accreditation under the province’s new school-improvement program. The distinction caps five years of hard work by Principal Jane Matheson and staff. Southdale-North Woodside was one of eight schools selected in 2002 to pilot the program and there are now 130 schools across the province working on school-accreditation plans. Southdale-North Woodside focused its efforts on improving student achievement in mathematics and literacy, and establishing a more caring and safe learning environment for its 362 students.