

Northwest Schools Travelling Art Exhibit Opens in Loon Lake

March 19, 2010

A travelling Art Show that features the best visual art produced by students of the Northwest School Division will be on display in local communities this spring. The first exhibit will be held at Ernie Studer School in Loon Lake, from March 15th through to the 19th.

The idea for the travelling display came up in a conversation between teacher Don Wheler and Superintendent Ron Biberdorf last spring. “It seemed like a great idea,” said Biberdorf, “to host a travelling show that would bring the students’ art work to a much larger viewing public.”

The initiative also has the effect of raising the profile of visual arts across the division. “It’s a show of support,” said Wheler, “for an arts strand that up until now did not receive the same levels of exposure that other areas of student achievement were experiencing.”

“While our athletes, musicians, and our actors and actresses all typically have a lot of opportunities to perform at many levels outside of their communities,” said Biberdorf, “that was not the case in visual arts. When one considered how much work students and teachers put into their paintings and sculptures, it seemed to us that a travelling show was both a good way to give the students the recognition that they deserve, and to give the public the pleasure of being able to see some remarkably fine paintings and drawings. It’s about celebrating the work on a higher level, and raising the profile of our visual artists at the same time.”

Frames and mattes were purchased early in the year for the display and each of the participating schools has selected three or four works for the exhibition. Some staged shows and invited local artists to come in and judge the work, while others used different methods to select their best pieces. The art works encompass a wide variety of styles and media, from stunning pencil portraits through to colourful abstracts and whimsical creations in clay. The students who received the recognition will be able to take the framed work home at the end of the year.

The student work will be on display in the town of Meadow Lake at the Artistic Incidents Gallery from March the 22nd through to April 1st. A reception for the artists will be held at the gallery on Friday March the 26th at 7:00 PM.

Other shows will be held in the following communities as follows:

Pierceland, April 19 -23

Hillmond, May 24- 28

Paradise Hill, May 31-June 4

Lashburn, June 7-11

St. Walburg, June 14 -25