



MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

GOOD SPIRIT
SCHOOL DIVISION

2016/2017

WE Schools Program, WE
233 Carlton Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2L2



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Executive Summary

WE Schools Learning Framework

Through educational resources and service campaigns, students further their curricular learning and develop the life skills for success. Young people are challenged to research and make an impact on at least one local and one global issue that spark their passion.

WE Schools receive curricular resources, service campaigns, professional development for educators and mentorship programs to help students become change-makers.

WE Schools resources are free to schools and always evolving to keep the learning materials fresh and relevant. It revitalizes the classroom, both for teachers and students, and creates a closer connection between provincially-mandated curriculum and passion students find in civic action. The WE Schools program reminds everyone what classrooms are supposed to be: vibrant, bubbling incubators that inspire tomorrow's best leaders.

Division Participation

WE Schools

- 14 schools and groups involved in WE Schools in the 2016/2017 school year
- Among WE Schools program offerings, Good Spirit School Division engaged in the following activities:
 - Monthly local and global campaigns
 - Curriculum resources
 - WE are Canada resources



School & Campaign Engagement

Each campaign has specific outcomes when educators use all of the resources and lesson plans:

WE Take Charge

- Learn the theory and components of sustainability
- Create a multimedia project on a self-selected topic of sustainability based on independent research
- Reflect on their learnings through the creation of a mural

WE Scare Hunger

- Determine the difference between a "need" and a "want"
- Learn about hunger in their community, including the causes and impacts
- Explore the purpose and use of a food bank while learning what they can do to fight local hunger.

WE Are Rafikis

- Discover the definition and purpose of a social entrepreneur
- Learn how social entrepreneurs work around the world and in their communities
- Apply their learning by reimagining businesses that exist in their communities as social enterprises.

WE Create Change

- Learn different options for investing and what the benefits and challenges are to socially responsible investing
- Develop creative writing skills by demonstrating narrative techniques through writing for a particular audience, and in a specific style, to gain a better understanding of identity protection
- Determine different techniques to support fundraising campaigns as they help children around the world

WE Are One

- It is up to all of us together to break down barriers
- Learn about the experiences of people with disabilities
- Explore through technology to imagine and plan how to make a more inclusive community



WE School Coordinators: Spotlight School *Langenburg Central School*

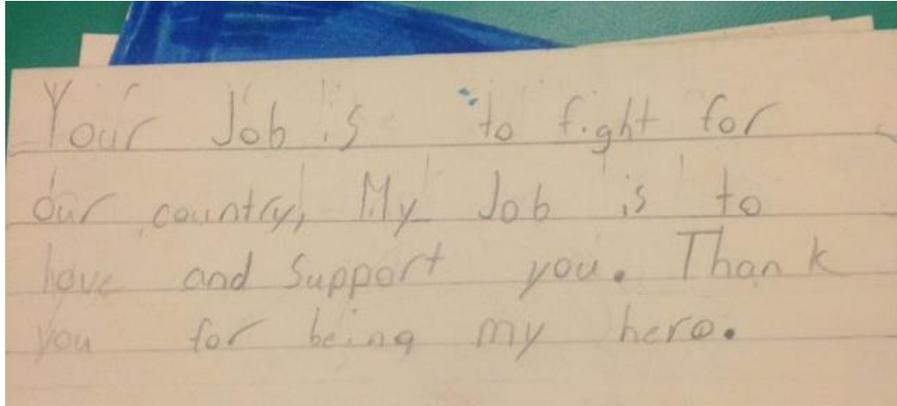


This fall the students of Langenburg Central were extremely busy taking action on a variety of issues that were close to their heart. To start the year students were excited to organize their annual Terry Fox event and their WE Scare Hunger initiative for the local food bank. Both events were hugely successful and through the WE Scare Hunger campaign they were able to address the importance of taking action on issues surrounding local food insecurity. In addition to spreading awareness in their community they were also able to collect 1,256 items of food!

After these two great initiatives the group went on to organize a successful fundraiser for Breast Cancer, fundraising \$5,000 for the Yorkton Hospital. Finally, to spread awareness about the importance of opening the dialogue around mental health, they organized a Mental Health Symposium that included a play and speakers.



Yorkdale Central School



This fall has been a busy one for the students of Yorkdale Central. Their group started with the WE Scare Hunger campaign to address local food insecurity and support the local foodbank. After having a lot of success with their food drive they began their November campaign called postcards for peace. They sent 357 inspirational, motivational and loving postcard to 17 Armed Forces and Veteran associations.

November also included their 2nd annual service learning trip to Winnipeg where they visited the Museum of Human Rights, went through the “Be an Upstander” program and volunteer with the Sioloam Mission and the Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank. After learning about Canadian food insecurity and human right history, the students finished the month of November off with a global action. They organized a WE Are Rafikis campaign to support the economic empowerment of women and raised over \$1,000 for education projects in Sierra Leone.

Over the holidays the team hosted 100 guests at a community Christmas dinner where they celebrated the holiday with their school community. Passionate about making sure everyone in their school had the opportunity to have a delicious Christmas dinner the students worked hard to do all the shopping and cooking for the entire dinner.

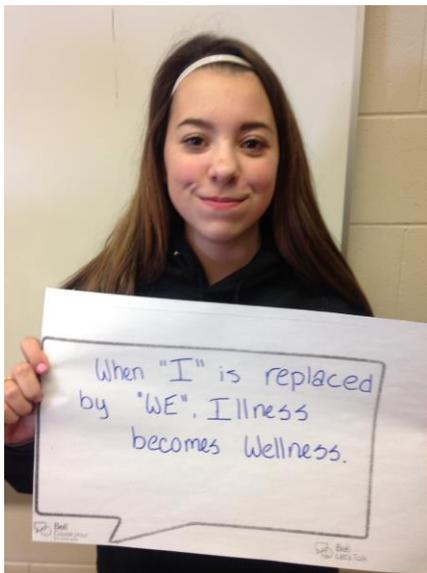
Students have also become very passionate about mental health and have used Bell Let’s Talk Day as a platform to have a conversation about removing the stigma around mental health. They have been creating an awareness raising campaign based on pledges that encourages the student body to get on social media and talk.

This year is Kendra Helfrich’s 6th year with the WE Schools program and every year she has continued to build the program. As she has grown the program,



more and more students have taken an interest and the group is so popular that she had to create a junior and a senior group.

Kendra states, "Social justice has always been a passion of mine and WE Schools has given me a tangible way to share that passion with my students, colleagues and administrators. It is truly an incredible feeling when I can see my kids being recognized for their volunteer work and their dedication to helping others and that, as a school, we can celebrate those accomplishments as much as the sports trophies."



Invermay School

The Invermay School Red Cross Group is such an active group with 20 Grade 6-12 members and 2 advisors. Their mission is to help improve lives of vulnerable individuals locally and globally.

This year, the Red Cross team decided to sponsor the WE Scare Hunger program during the Halloween season for their local commitment. Their committee set up posters and dropped off boxes around the community and advertised their campaign on Facebook. On October 31st, 2016, members were put into 4 groups to canvas the community. They practised how they would canvas each home and how they would show gratitude to each contributor. They organized parent volunteers to drive around the community to pick up our donations. Each group had a map of the community and were appointed to a specific area that they were to canvas. In their small community of 250 people they collected 11 large boxes of non-perishable items to donate! They contacted their local food bank, Lighthouse Food Bank & Care Centre in Yorkton and dropped off their donations. Their collections this year, far surpassed what they



collected last year and the students were very excited to help out individuals and families in need.

The team is also excited to host a global fundraiser this year! They had a meeting to discuss some of the needs in our world. They decided to host a soup/sandwich/dessert sale to raise at least \$250 to provide clean water for a family for life. Their decision was based on the fact that clean water is the basis for all necessities of life. All of the supplies for the sale will be donated by the students in their Red Cross Group. They will be hosting the sale on March 22, 2017. If proceeds exceed \$250 the Red Cross team plans to donate the money to more of the WE initiatives such as The Goat that Gives Back or Healthy Lunches for a Year.





Looking Ahead

Upcoming Campaigns:

WE Bake for Change

- Understand of the plight of young people in achieving educational equity in developing communities
- Discover about a global issue associated with sustainable development
- Develop leadership skills of organizing, action planning, and practical skills of baking and cooking, while reflecting on experiences of empathy and equity

WE Are Silent

- Develop an understanding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Perform independent research and learn about diversity around the globe
- Create an ongoing human rights portfolio, contributing to a lifestyle of social action

WE Volunteer Now

- Learn about the history and importance of volunteerism in America
- Find a cause they are passionate about
- Research ways to volunteer locally, nationally or internationally
- Recruit others to join them in volunteering

WE Walk for Water

- Learning through example, it's not just about talking the talk, but more importantly walking the walk
- Take action by raising funds and awareness for WE Villages communities who must travel to access safe, clean drinking water
- Stand in solidarity for making the world a better place one walk at a time

WE Stand Together

- Examine the social, political and economic forces that have shaped Aboriginal People
- To develop students' reading, writing, critical and creative thinking skills as they learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures
- Students will gain an understanding of actions youth have taken to address these issues to promote social change



WE Day Saskatchewan

As part of the WE Schools program, students earn their way to WE Day Saskatchewan, WE's signature youth empowerment event, on March 15th, 2017. By showcasing the extensive impact that youth engaged in our program have when they work together for a common goal, students and teachers return to their schools with a renewed sense of drive and purpose to contribute to their community as active citizens, and a deeper connection to Canada.

WE Day is a day-long educational and inspirational event that celebrates the power of young people to make a positive difference in the world. While the event is free for schools and youth to attend, participants must earn their tickets through a commitment to one local and one global action of their choice through the WE Schools program. WE Day's unique, cause-inclusive structure allows all causes and issues youth care about to be showcased, permitting other charitable initiatives and organizations to be highlighted. The event brings together musicians, actors, thought-leaders and global icons to inspire youth, share their stories and celebrate youth actions and collective impacts.

Educators have the opportunity at WE Day to connect directly with the WE Schools team, engage with program resources, connect with other WE Schools educators, and participate in educational sessions to further experiential service-learning in their school communities.

WE Are Canada

Canada's 150th birthday is a national milestone. To celebrate, we're reflecting on our country's past and shaping our vision for its future by bringing experiential service-learning into classrooms and empowering students to become active local, national and global citizens.

Through our partnership with Canada Heritage WE has created the WE Are Canada Curriculum and Resource Kit. This comprehensive, bilingual kit will provide educators across the country with the tools to teach and inspire students to become active participants in shaping Canada's heritage for years to come.

Each lesson package provided includes subject-specific curriculum expectations across the three grade levels: elementary, middle years and secondary. Our multidisciplinary approach to curriculum development made it possible to address a variety of core subjects, including social studies, science, math and English. Any interested educator will receive this rich resource filled with over 100 curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular lessons and activities, in both English and French.

If you would like more information or have any questions about WE Are Canada, please feel free to contact us at Canada150@we.org.



Professional Learning Sessions

At this free professional learning session our curriculum team members will be in attendance and will provide teachers with an opportunity to “unpack the curriculum” from our new WE Are Canada kit and collaboratively plan for their school year. Educators will also collaborate with their peers to formulate an action plan to empower their students in three areas: increased academic engagement, university and workplace readiness, and active citizenship. If you are interested in hosting a session please contact your WE Schools Liaison.

Leadership Program Offerings

ME to WE Leadership Programs are customizable, experiential learning workshops that empower young people to discover their potential, explore social issues, create positive social change and build skills essential to their success in both academics and the workplace.

Program Themes:

- ▶ 21st Century Leadership Skills
- ▶ Canadian Leadership: Exploring 150 Years of Unity and Diversity
- ▶ At-Risk Youth Programming
- ▶ Safe & Caring Schools
- ▶ Indigenous Leadership and Educational Programs

ME to WE brings over a decade of youth development experience to our programs, which use a variety of social justice themes to facilitate development of skills including critical thinking, reflection, leadership, argument formation and action planning. These skills support students in meeting learning objectives and ultimately achieving the transformative outcomes of increased academic engagement, instilling active citizenship and improving university and workplace readiness.

As a result of participating in ME to WE programming:

- ▶ 70% of students are motivated to do better in school
- ▶ 84% of students are now thinking about their career path and academic future
- ▶ 88% of students feel more confident as leaders.



WE Schools Contact Information for the Good Spirit School Division

In preparation for the 2016-17 academic year, we encourage Good Spirit School Division to further your impact by inviting all of your schools to participate in the program.

For schools that are currently not involved but interested, they can contact their WE Schools Coordinator, Emily Rooks at emily.rooks@we.org to learn more about how they can get involved.

For school division level correspondence, please contact Ryan Brownlee at Ryan.Brownlee@we.org or 416-925-5894 x872.



Appendix

	Report 1	WE Are One	We Are Rafikis	We Are Silent	We Bake for Change	We Create Change	We Scare Hunger	We Stand Together	We Volunteer Now	Grand Total
Canora Composite School	✓						✓			2
Churchbridge Public School	✓									1
Columbia Elementary School	✓					✓				2
Invermay School	✓						✓			2
Kamsack Comprehensive Institute	✓						✓			2
Langenburg Central School	✓						✓			2
M.C. Knoll School	✓						✓			2
Melville Comprehensive	✓									1
Yorkdale Central Elementary School	✓						✓		✓	3
Yorkton Regional High School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	7
Grand Total	10	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	2	24