



SPRING 2008

News from International Education



Prestigious U.N. Award presented to Nicholson Student



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Special Points of Interest:

- Program established in 1995
- Initial enrolment: 20 students; enrolment in 2007-2008: 140
- Five schools in three smaller cities
- 22:1 student to teacher ratio
- Students have attended from Brazil, Venezuela, China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Mexico, Ghana, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Hong Kong

Ming Kai (Kenniss) Lam, a student attending Nicholson Catholic College from Hong Kong, participated in and won a United Nations competition this past year. She was required to give a five minute speech about a world issue and some possible solutions. She won the competition because her insight and her persuasive presentation was excellent. The following is an excerpt from her speech:

"I was hungry and you formed a committee to investigate my hunger. I was homeless and you filed a report on my plight. I was sick and you had a seminar on the situation of the underprivileged. You have investigated all aspects of my plight. And yet I am still hungry, homeless and sick."

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. This quote touches me and I have never left it behind because it clearly shows the complex and ironic situation of poverty and poverty reduction process. Therefore, when I was given an opportunity to write a speech about the most serious issue the members of the U.N. are facing, my head was instantly filled with flying pictures of people that are enduring poverty. From then on, I knew that when I was standing here before you, I wasn't just representing myself, but also the sake of millions of people who are now suffering from poverty and I am here to express the urgency of

poverty reduction and solutions for this global crisis.

Let me start with the effects of poverty. First of all, believe it or not, poverty affects every single one of us. It affects you, it affects me and it even affects Madonna! It is like what the Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan said, "poverty is an affront to our common humanity, it also makes many other problems worse." Poverty causes life-threatening consequences and affects the whole humanity at once because it often leads to violence like war, genocide and terrorism. Knowing that poverty ruins and kills isn't rocket science.

Without a helping hand from us and the U.N., poverty will be passed on from generation to generation, even if we are in the most advanced and prosperous century. Try to imagine that every three seconds there's a child killed by poverty. There are lives, like us and they do not deserve to die in such a horrible way. Here we are, in the developed world, escaping from our conscience and hiding behind the materialistic society that we live in. We have wasted numerous resources that could have saved millions of lives and it just goes to show how we take things for granted. Therefore putting poverty reduction at the top of the U.N.'s agenda is a lesson for all of humanity that while some people are enjoying the dizzying

speed of rapid developments, there are still one billion people, struggling to survive under poverty.

Surely, even before I was born, the U.N. had already recognized the need for poverty reduction. For example, one of the ongoing poverty-reduction projects in the U.N. is the Millennium Development Goals, the MDGs, which include the goal to halve the proportion of people living less than a dollar per day by 2015. It is in fact an ideal goal that the U.N. should continue to follow, but it should be given much more focus and the whole world should engage enthusiastically in it. For instance, I believe that the U.N. can do more on its Global Poverty Day, which was established in 1993 but has been given little publicity. The U.N. can encourage governments to let their officials and staffs except those who deal with emergency to go to schools and hold special educational programs where students can learn about poverty and the MDGs. Moreover, they can collect 1 U.S. dollar from everyone and the enormous money can be sent to the poor.

See U.N. (Pg. 3)

International Days at Holy Cross



Apple Lee's solo performance was one of the many entertaining singing and dancing acts at International Days 2007



Holy Cross has a number of students from other countries who are involved in exchange programs or who have recently immigrated to Canada. Inter-national Days is an annual two day celebration which allows these students to show some of the highlights of their homelands.

On Monday December 10th there was "international" entertainment in the Cafeteria throughout the lunch period. These acts played to a very appreciative audience. See a photo gallery of the day's entertainment.

The ever so popular food fair took place in the Main Foyer on

Tuesday, December 11th. Students and staff sampled a variety of food from China, Korea, Mexico, France, Brazil and Jamaica. The photo gallery of the food fair proves that the food was superb!



Students Take to the Water

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board currently enjoys an Outdoor Education Centre located on Wolfe Island, which is one of the 1000 Islands. Residents access the island by taking a 20-minute ferry ride. Walter Sepic is a Special Assignment Teacher who is in charge of the Outdoor Education Program on Wolfe Island. He is very happy to teach the international students about outdoor education and the students really enjoy their time in the outdoors. The following story was written by an international student about their trip on the Moira River recently:

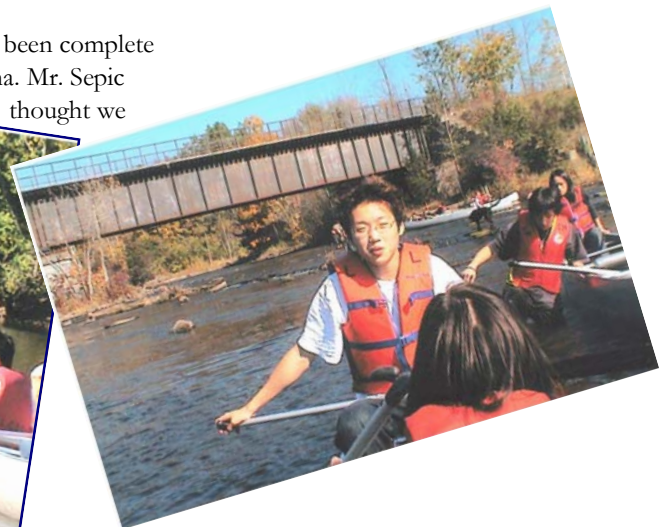
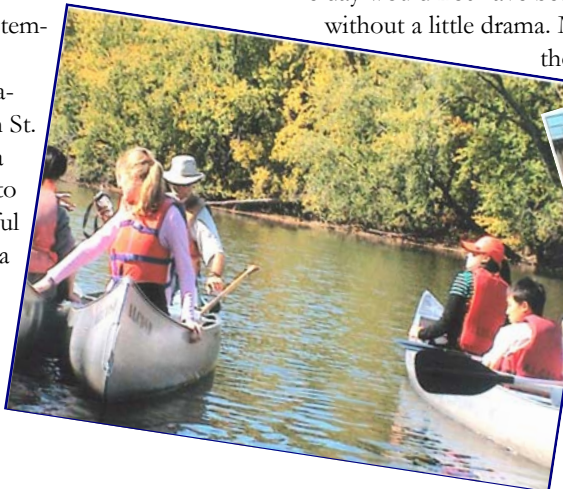
On a beautiful September morning, the international students from St. Theresa set out on a 20-minute bus ride to canoe on the peaceful Moira River. It was a perfect day for a canoe trip—the sun

was warm and shining brightly in the sky. The splendid colours of the trees were breathtaking and the morning seemed almost magical. Mrs. Hackett and Mr. Sepic were in for a real treat as none of the international students had canoed previously. After a 45-minute "how-to", we were assigned our partners and set out on our adventure. It was funny to see canoes going backward, sideways and everyway, but straight. After a while we all got the hang of it and had a great time. At noon, we stopped to eat our lunch and laughed at our lack of boating skills.

The day would not have been complete without a little drama. Mr. Sepic thought we

could canoe the entire Moira River, but as we ventured further along, we ran aground amid huge rocks and boulders. Many of the boys took control and jumped out of the canoes to pull us to safety. When we finally arrived at the shore, the bus had left us and we had to walk quite a way to find a phone. We finally arrived back at school just in time to catch our buses.

Despite our little mishap, it was one of the greatest days I spent in Canada!



Japanese Guests at Regiopolis



Regiopolis-Notre Dame Catholic High School will once again host 22 students from the Sakura no Seibo school in Japan. This will be the fourth consecutive year that the Sakura no Seibo school has visited Regiopolis-Notre Dame and Holy Cross. The girls will reside with local families and will be at Regiopolis the school on October 24, 25 and 26. They will pair up with 22 of our Grade 11 students and travel together from class to class during their visit.

U.N. Award cont'd

But launching a one-day campaign is not enough, the fight is still on. Therefore, I strongly recommend the U.N. to simplify its administrative structure and to work with other non-governmental organizations. It is hard to admit that the numerous organizations and reports are just duplicating each other's work and lowering the productivity. All we need are togetherness, identical goals and determination to win the battle against poverty.

We also focus on the long-term poverty reduction strategies. To name a few are to assist governments of the undeveloped countries to establish an effective governmental structure and to speed up the negotiation of debt relief and the business opportunities for the undeveloped countries. Global poverty reduction is not just about wearing the make-poverty-history wristband. The solution to poverty is an obligation for each and every one of us.

I know I am just 15 years old, but I have already realized how destructive poverty is. This is not because I have special talent to diagnose the problem. It is because poverty is so basic, so influential that we SHOULD NOT wait another second to tackle it. So let's not just talk about it. Let's focus on achieving the goals that the U.N. have set and use the solutions that I have mentioned because of tackling poverty, the U.N. will make a huge difference for millions and for some, even the difference between life and death. Just think about this, already, in the five minutes I've talked, 100 children have died because of poverty. Certainly, I will be the first one to join the battle against poverty and now there's only one question left, will the United Nations and you join me?



St. Paul Catholic Secondary School — World Religions

The World Religions classes at St. Paul Catholic Secondary School include the exciting experience of a "World Religions Pilgrimage". Students experience various places of worship of the world religions they study in class. This day the students visit Kuluta Buddhist Temple (pictured here), the Islamic Center and Mosque and the Jewish Beth Israel Synagogue of Kingston, Ontario. Speakers provided informative and lively overviews of their faiths. Students enjoy this engaging experience of collegiality which helps cement their understanding of the faiths of our brothers and sisters in Canada and around the world.



Taiwanese Students Experience Canadian Lifestyle



Four students from Taiwan visited Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School for two weeks beginning January 21, 2008. Two students were placed in our Grade 6-7 class and two were placed in our Grade 7-8 class. A representative from Taiwan, Loling Chin, accompanied the students and was in the school each day. The students participated in all class activities and many special events, which introduced them to Canadian culture. They attended a school Mass and shared their religious traditions with their classmates. They went tobogganing and attended a Belleville Bulls hockey game. With their classmates, they went on a field trip to Ottawa and visited Parliament Hill. They really enjoyed bartering for furs at the Museum of Civilization. They also experienced life in New France at the Royal Ontario Museum. As a special treat, Mr. Mulvihill and the students went to a Raptors game at the Air Canada Centre.

With the home stays families, the students experienced other winter sports such as snowmobiling, outdoor skating and downhill skiing. Home stay families communicated and continue to communicate with their new friends in Taiwan.

Throughout their stay the student council took pictures and kept a scrapbook for each participant. On the final day of school our visitors received their scrapbook of memories.

All in all, it was a wonderful experience: the students at Fatima learned about school life in Taiwan, and the students from Taiwan experienced the life of a Canadian student.



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