



News and Information

May 10, 2013

Infusion: Arts in Education at George Pringle Elementary School

Kelowna, B.C. –

George Pringle Elementary School held a special open house to celebrate the *Infusion: Arts in Education* Program on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. The Arts Infusion Open House showcased a compilation of the arts including dance, theatre, music, and visual arts. Guests experienced first-hand the remarkable vibe and energy that our students are immersed in on a daily basis.

Many honoured guests attended, such as Mayor Doug Findlater of West Kelowna and School Trustee Chris Gorman. Trustee Gorman shared *"The arts infusion program will benefit students for years to come. The opportunity to engage with students and professional artists was a wonderful opportunity to see community building in action"*.

As part of the program, staff and students at George Pringle Elementary work with Paula Scott, Michael Breakey, and Alex Fong. Each of these professional artists shares their extraordinary talents and provides our students and staff with a unique experience. Additionally, Principal John McMahon and Shamma Sabir, a Student Support Worker, created the George Pringle String Program and placed violins in the hands of youth. Teacher Sinead Holzer has led a group of eager dancers in Ceili Dance, while teacher Jessica Balehowsky has brought new light into the theatre with the Drama Club.

George Pringle Elementary is one of six schools across British Columbia selected to participate in a three-year journey to explore and implement arts integration in the classroom with professional artists. In British Columbia, *Infusion: Arts in Education* was created by 2010 Legacies Now, with support from the Province of British Columbia, as a legacy of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

In 2012, the program was re-conceptualized by ArtStarts in Schools, a not-for-profit organization that promotes art and creativity among BC's young people. Since 1996, ArtStarts has been providing innovative arts programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education. *Infusion* is the latest program that it has launched.

For comments, please contact:

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