



VALLEY VOICES

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VOLUME 1 - DECEMBER 2023 - *Empowering Minds, Igniting Voices: Unveiling Tomorrow's Stories Today!*

Grade 12 Students Embark on an Enlightening Journey at the Canadian Human Rights Museum



By Luana Silva

In an immersive educational experience, grade 12 students from RVS delved into the rich history of human rights at the Canadian Human Rights Museum on December 1. Accompanied by their enthusiastic teachers, Ms. Silva and Mr. Rempel, the students had an unforgettable day of learning and exploration.

The day kicked off with a captivating small lecture that shed light on Canada's pivotal role in the Second World War, with a special focus on immigration. Students were engaged in understanding the historical context and the impact of immigration during that crucial period. The museum's staff skillfully navigated through the complexities, making it an enlightening experience for all.

As part of the educational journey, students explored interactive screens showcasing the evolution of human rights globally over time. The visually engaging displays provided insights into the progress and challenges faced by societies worldwide in the pursuit of human rights.

To recharge their energy after the insightful lectures, the group enjoyed a delectable lunch featuring everyone's favorite—pizza. The students seized the opportunity to relax, share their thoughts, and strengthen the friendships among themselves.

Following the pleasant lunch break, the students resumed their exploration of the museum. They had the chance to wander through the exhibits at their own pace, deepening their understanding of the diverse aspects of human rights. The self-guided tour allowed them to absorb the museum's content at a personal level, enhancing the overall learning experience.

Reflecting on the day, many students expressed their appreciation for the museum visit, describing it as an eye-opening and thought-provoking journey. The opportunity to witness history and human rights issues firsthand left a lasting impact on their perspectives.



The field trip to the Canadian Human Rights Museum not only aligned with the curriculum but also provided students with a unique and memorable educational experience. It served as a reminder of the importance of understanding the past to shape a more just and compassionate future.

Ms. Silva and Mr. Rempel ensured that the students not only learned but also enjoyed every moment of their time at the museum. As the students return to their classrooms, they carry with them a deeper appreciation for human rights and a broader perspective on Canada's historical contributions.

Have You Ever Read Animal Farm?

By Mia Kutchma, Vanna Sigurdson, Natalie Allmendinger, Sydney Power.

Hey there, bookworms! Ready for a literary adventure that's part fable, part satire, and all kinds of thought-provoking? Well, buckle up because we're diving into the wild world of George Orwell's "Animal Farm"!

Picture this: a farm full of talking animals, led by some ambitious pigs with big ideas about creating a utopia. Sounds cute, right? But don't let the adorable barnyard setting fool you – this is one twisted tale with a whole lot to say about power, politics, and human nature.

The animals on Manor Farm get fed up with their human farmer's tyranny, so they stage a rebellion, kick him to the curb, and take over the joint. Led by the clever pigs, things start off peachy keen, with a set of commandments that promise equality and harmony. But spoiler alert: utopias

are hard to maintain, especially when pigs start walking on two legs and champagne starts flowing.

"Animal Farm" isn't just a story about rebellious critters; it's a sly commentary on the Russian Revolution and a broader exploration of how revolutions can sometimes go sideways. Orwell uses his animal allegory to shine a spotlight on the dangers of unchecked power, propaganda, and the corruption that can seep into even the noblest of causes.

So, if you're into barnyard drama, political intrigue, and a dash of cautionary tale wisdom, grab a copy of "Animal Farm." Trust us, you won't look at pigs, horses, or revolutions the same way again!

Animal Farm in Art: A Menagerie of Student Imagination



Under all that fluffy fluff, there's a subtle rebellion brewing. Even the shyest sheep is catching onto the winds of change. Things are getting interesting in the woolly world!

By Angela Cochrane



Even in dreamland, pigs know how to hog the spotlight! This sleepy pig on its cozy bed is probably dreaming up the next big thing – power naps included!

By Sydney Powers

Honoring Heroes and Promoting Peace: A Remembrance Day



By Luana Silva

In a solemn and respectful gathering, the entire student body came together in the gymnasium on Remembrance Day to honor the heroes who have sacrificed for our freedom. The presence of the RCMP added a sense of gravity to the occasion, emphasizing the importance of remembering and reflecting on our collective history.

The event began with a powerful rendition of "Sing for Peace," skillfully coordinated by Mrs. Nash. Adding to the emotional atmosphere was an inspirational video curated by Mrs. Fisher, setting the tone for the commemoration.

Under the supervision of Mr. Slaney, students from grades 5 and 6 showcased their talents in poetry and art. Sam, Draiden, Aaron, Peyton, Harper, Brylee, Alice, Jill, Willian, and Michael passionately declaimed poetry, while simultaneously creating beautiful posters that visually conveyed the spirit of Remembrance Day.

One of the poignant moments of the event was the heartfelt performance of "Grant Us Peace," a song that resonated deeply with everyone in attendance. This moving piece played a central role in capturing the essence of the day and reminding us of the ultimate goal: peace.



Coordinated by Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Mateychuk, the assembly was treated to the poem "For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon, declaimed by Mia Kutchuma. Mia's delivery added a personal touch, making the words of the poem even more poignant.

The artistry of peace took center stage with the Peace75 Origami Dove Art Installation, a captivating display coordinated by Ms. Ohare. The symbolism of these doves resonated with the theme of peace and unity that Remembrance Day embodies.



Adding to the literary elements of the event, Bri Judson, under the watchful eye of Ms. Mateychuk, delivered a powerful rendition of "In Flanders Fields." Bri's beautiful performance conveyed the weight of the words, paying homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students who participated in this event, showcasing their talent and dedication. Special recognition is extended to Mr. Cote, Mr. O'hare, Mr. Rumpel,

and Mr. Mirza for their support and guidance. The efforts of our Vice Principal, Jennifer Collete, and our Principal, Mr. Mateychuk, in organizing and overseeing this commemoration are truly appreciated.

As we reflect on Remembrance Day, let us carry the spirit of unity, peace, and gratitude forward, honoring the heroes who have paved the way for the freedoms we cherish today.

Pondering the Poppy: A Student's Take on Remembrance



The poppy holds great significance on Remembrance Day, having gained popularity for thriving in the soil of the Western Front. Its red hue symbolizes the blood of the soldiers who bravely served. An impactful poem to explore is "In Flanders Fields." The poppy serves as a poignant reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace. Lest we forget!



By Natalie Chubaty

My awesome school!

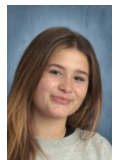
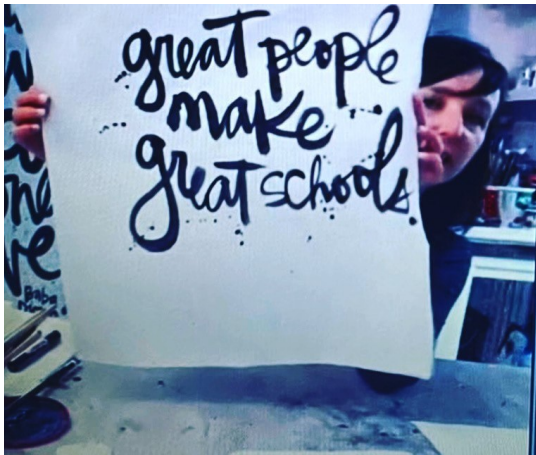
What I love about my school are the activities that we participate in within the community. Everyone plays along in the activities that go on around here as well!

My principal is always open to new ideas and wants to see changes in school behavior and classwork. The vice-principal is a wonderful, kind lady; she is also always all ears for new ideas.

This school has a free salad bar every week, and I love it—I think my mom does too. She loves not having to make lunches at least

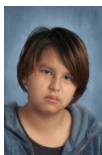
once a week, and it makes it much easier for the busier days/nights. There is also soup and sandwiches on other days, which is really great too!

The school feels very welcoming, and I am able to feel safe when I'm here. I'm able to say that I feel supported in my classwork, and I am surrounded by intelligent people who are willing to help if I'm stuck.



By Alley Rodewald

Canvas Chronicles



By Sophia Standingrock



By Charly-Ann Gensioresk

School Recollections: Lovely Memories

The musical I participated in during grade 8.

Natalie Chubaty

When I dropped 8 points in my first tournament.

Giacomo Cammarata

All basketball games!

Eric Alexander

Baking cookies on Mondays and doing beading during lunch.

Carol Littlejohn-Henry

The field trip to the Canadian Human Rights Museum.

Charly-Ann Gensioresk

Have you ever wondered if art education holds the same importance as math?



In high school, there is often speculation about whether art education holds the same importance as other subjects, such as math or science.

This essay aims to argue that art courses in high school are not merely extras but are equally vital. The availability of art classes can assist students in developing creativity, thinking skills, and emotional understanding—essential components of a well-rounded education. The exploration of different types of art enriches the studying experience while at school and prepares students for life after school. It is essential for students to learn about art, as the knowledge acquired can be applied in various ways in the future, depending on the chosen art variation, including drafting, music, cinema, poetry, and the most common, visual arts.

The notion that any kind of art education is crucial in a center of learning is acknowledged; however, not everyone may share this perspective. Some individuals may assert that art is not as vital as mandatory classes like math or science. The underappreciation of art in schools often results in it being the first course to get cut when there's a low budget.

An article titled "Why Art Education in High School Isn't Necessary?" by Spencer LaVine ar-

gues that art, while fun and intriguing, should not be deemed necessary, as it does not contribute to higher test scores or better education. The article mentions Glenrock School, where students are mandated to take a certain number of art courses, potentially diverting time from more enriching courses or option time for those engaged in numerous AP or honors courses.

Disagreement with the mentioned article stems from the perceived bias and opinion-based nature of the argument against art. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that the article presents some valid points. It is agreed that it should not be mandatory to have a specific number of art courses, but at least one art course should be obligatory. This ensures that students gain knowledge of art and the unique creativity that only art classes can impart, while simultaneously having the option to select alternative courses aligning with their future goals.

In many schools, certain courses necessitate fees. Typically, classes that impose fees are either expensive to maintain at the school or classified as extra or merely for enjoyment. Unfortunately, this practice disadvantages many students and their families who lack the financial means to pay for these classes, causing them to miss valuable opportunities. This exclusivity is unjust for those less fortunate, preventing them from pursuing their desired classes. Consequently, many talented students in art-type courses may be unable to express their true potential, and their skills may go to waste.

In conclusion, the perspective on the importance of art in high school is that it should be regarded as a necessity in the education system rather than as merely an easy or enjoyable class. At RVS, there is the privilege of accessing various art courses without fees, reinforcing the belief in the significance of art education in high school.



By Kyanna Froese

Celebrating Diversity: My Journey at School and Beyond



Indigenous drum.

This school that I currently attend has been such an amazing experience that has impacted my life and my future in many ways. The teachers here have helped me learn countless different things to prepare me for a successful life. Everyone I've ever met here has helped and continues to help me grow into a young adult.

There are many friends I've made at this school whom I see in my future for the best. In this school, it's hard for people to communicate with each other because they're too scared to talk, but the different types of sports have helped many people come out and make friends easily.

There are various activities that help bring students and teachers together, such as student council, clubs, classrooms, sports teams, and more.

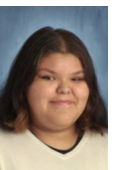
School can present challenges for indigenous students to overcome. For example, most indigenous kids grow up on a reservation, surrounded by their distinct cultural identity. During this

period, their parents or guardians might occasionally share less favorable perspectives such as "All white people are bad," "They took our land," and "Don't trust them." Encouraging harmony is essential. Why can't we all just get along? While differences between Natives and Whites are often highlighted, fostering unity is a more constructive path forward.

People hold onto the past so much that it affects their future. The past can't be forgotten, and the history of indigenous people must always be remembered. However, we need to get along to move on. The world is already tough; there's no need to make it even harder.

Being an indigenous individual, transitioning to RVS wasn't challenging, thanks to the warm welcome from the school. But I am aware that some students may face difficulty fitting into a different environment. Luckily, at RVS, the school always makes all students feel welcome, giving everyone a cool outlook that goes beyond the usual negative stuff in today's world.

As I journey forward, inspired by the transformative experiences at Roseau Valley School, I am fueled by the belief that by embracing our differences and fostering understanding, we can create a future where unity prevails over division. Together, we build a world that celebrates the diversity of our experiences .



By Fabianna Kelly

Valley Voices Wants YOU!

Exciting News! Be a part of our school's vibrant narrative in the upcoming edition of Valley Voices!

- ◆ Share your stories, opinions, and creativity with the entire school community.
- ◆ Email your submissions to silval@blsd.ca with the subject "Newspaper Post."
- ◆ Questions? Reach out to Ms. Silva for assistance.



Let's make *Valley Voices* unforgettable with your unique voice!