



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tour for Humanity

WECDSB students to get intensive human rights lessons in mobile education classroom

(Windsor, Ontario, Wednesday, May 4, 2016) – Hundreds of students in Catholic schools across Windsor-Essex will get an intensive lesson on the importance of speaking out against hate and intolerance when the Tour for Humanity (T4H) visits the region.

A mobile human rights education centre, the T4H was created by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies to teach students, educators, and community leaders about topics of diversity, democracy, and Canadian civic rights and responsibilities.

“At our present point in history, with all of the issues and conflicts our world is currently facing, the need to educate our students about the virtues of acceptance, respect, and understanding has never been more vital or urgent,” said Director of Education Paul Picard. “These ideals are already woven throughout our curriculum, but with its high-tech capabilities and expert facilitators, the Tour for Humanity’s message will resonate with our students on an entirely new level.”

At a cost of \$1.2 million to design and build, T4H is a 30-seat, wheelchair accessible, state-of-the-art tour bus that has been transformed into an advanced mobile education centre that presents information on the consequences of hate and intolerance. The bus tours around Ontario, typically making day trips to various locations, but the WECDSB has booked it for a two week period from May 9-20, during which it will visit four secondary schools and six elementary schools.

“After touring concentration camps in Poland and visiting Israel with the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, we were extremely impressed by the organization’s depth of knowledge and expertise, and its commitment to promoting human rights,” said WECDSB Superintendent of Education Mike Seguin, who has been helping organize the local tour. “We felt their message was far too important to limit to just a one-day visit, and we wanted as many of our students as possible to participate in this amazing experience.”

Content during the visit will include workshops on the holocaust, universal genocide, and such real heroes as Martin Luther King Jr., Anne Frank, and Mahatma Gandhi; Canadian experiences with slavery, residential schools, and the internment of Japanese Canadians, and; bullying, prejudice, racism, anti-Semitism, and how students can make the world a better place.

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The tour will visit the following schools:

- May 9 @ Assumption College Catholic High School
- May 10 @ Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School (LaSalle)
- May 11 @ St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Amherstburg)
- May 12 @ Stella Maris Catholic Elementary School (Amherstburg)
- May 13 @ H.J. Lassaline Catholic Elementary School
- May 16 @ St. Joseph Catholic High School
- May 17 @ Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School (Leamington)
- May 18 @ St. John Catholic Elementary School
- May 19 @ F.J. Brennan Catholic High School
- May 20 @ St. John de Brebeuf Catholic Elementary School (Kingsville)

Note: Members of the media are welcome to attend any of the above sessions, but should connect with Stephen Fields at the contact information below to inquire about specific times and to confirm their attendance.

Find out more about the Tour for Humanity here: <http://tourforhumanity.com/>

For further information contact:

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