

Datsyuk drops in

Red Wings star makes unannounced visit to new hockey academy



Pavel Datsyuk, centre, greets students at the F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence Hockey Canada Skills Academy at Central Park Athletics on Tuesday morning while centre principal Kevin Hamlin, right, looks on.

(Windsor, Ontario, Oct. 2, 2014) – A group of students at the new Hockey Canada Skills Academy got the thrill of a lifetime on Tuesday morning when Detroit Red Wings star Pavel Datsyuk made an unannounced visit to the facility.

“The students were absolutely floored when he walked into the room,” said F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence principal Kevin Hamlin, who helped coordinate the visit. “The kids were very emotional and very excited to meet him, and he gave them some really amazing and memorable advice.”

The brand new F.J. Brennan Centre of Excellence Hockey Canada Skills Academy opened last month at Central Park Athletics. Certified by Hockey Canada, the facility is home to about 90 students from both Corpus Christi Middle School and F.J. Brennan Catholic High School, who

spend half of their day getting hockey-specific instruction and normal curriculum there, and the other half at their respective schools taking regular courses.

Hamlin said the Russian centre-man and three-time Selke award was interested in learning more about the course and the facility.

“He was curious about what we do here and wanted to see it first-hand,” Hamlin said. “He spent a couple of hours visiting classrooms, talking with the students and meeting with James and Leigh Anne King (the owners of Central Park Athletics). He was just so kind and gracious with everyone. It was really an outstanding visit, one the students will remember for a lifetime.”