

Changemakers

1,000 students geared up for inspirational WEcdsb Day



Chloe Clement, left, and Lauren Pavelich will take part in WEcdsb Day at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts' Chrysler Theatre next Wednesday.

(Windsor, Ontario, Friday May 15, 2014) – About 1,000 elementary students from schools throughout the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board will attend what's anticipated to be one of the most inspirational events of their young lives next week. But none of them have bought tickets for it.

"You can't buy tickets for WE Day," explained Corpus Christi Catholic Middle School teacher Laurie Clement, one of the event's organizers. "You have to earn them."

Modeled after the massively popular WE Day movement, which is designed to motivate young people to engage in global social improvement initiatives, WEcdsb Day will be held on May 20 at the St. Clair College Centre for the Arts' Chrysler Theatre. A wide variety of guest speakers, performers and social activists will participate in a high-energy social justice pep rally designed to inspire students to get involved in creating a better world.

"They'll leave this event feeling empowered," said Clement, who explained that students were selected by their principals to attend the event based on their involvement in social justice

clubs or other community improvement and outreach initiatives. “Kids often struggle about not knowing how to get involved. This should give them some ideas.”

Grade 8 student Chloe Clement has already attended a WE Day event in Waterloo two years ago, and said it was a life-altering experience.

“It was amazing to see just how big that day was, and how everyone was so inspiring,” she said. “It was overwhelming.”

Clement and the other students were so inspired by the event that they initiated a fund-raising effort which collected more than \$10,000 to help build a new school in rural Kenya.

Lauren Pavelich, one of Clement’s classmates, went to the WE Day held in Toronto last fall, which included appearances by Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, musician Joe Jonas and broadcaster Katie Couric. Pavelich said the goal of this year’s event is to help raise money for a village in Ecuador to buy goats.

“It’s not a hand out, it’s a hand up,” she said. “It will provide the community with milk and they’ll be able to breed the goats. It’s about making their community more sustainable.”

Besides inspiring kids to create a better world, the goals of WE Days are really synonymous with those of the Catholic faith, said Laurie Clement.

“Maybe they’ll think a little differently, or try a little harder the next time they see something happening that’s not right,” said her daughter Chloe.

For a complete overview of the day, check out the WEcdsb Day web site: bit.ly/wedaywindsor
And don’t forget to follow the day’s events on twitter: twitter.com/WEcdsbDay2015
Check out a WEcdsb Day video message from Free the Children and WE Day co-founder Marc Keilburger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVbTUKuNcOs&feature=youtu.be>

