



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

Students discover new talents as part of Quantum Arts Program

Taking dance classes was something cousins Althea Quinto and Melrose Arellano, both 11, had always wanted to do. Thanks to the Winnipeg School Division's Quantum Arts Program, the Grade 6 students at Lord Nelson School got their wish, training with the best of the best: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School.

More than 100 Grade 5 to 8 students from 42 schools across the Division are in the midst of the eight-week program, allowing them to develop new skills in dance, theatre and visual art. The students spend two hours, twice a week during school hours being trained by professionals at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) School, Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE) and The Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG) Studio.

"It's been a really good experience," says Quinto, who has enjoyed learning jazz, ballet and modern dance but likes ballet best because, she says, "we get to do lots of spins and turns." Arellano agrees, adding that a perk has also been "meeting brand new people and getting to dance with them."

This year, the Division is inviting media to visit the Quantum Arts Program while it is in progress, in advance of the annual Finale performance. Visits can be scheduled on these dates:

Winnipeg Art Gallery Studio – Thursday, March 13 or Tuesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet School – Thursday, March 13 between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

Prairie Theatre Exchange – Thursday, March 13 or Tuesday, March 18 between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

The Quantum Arts Program was developed based on the Winnipeg School Division's belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, and is made possible through the sponsorship of the Children's Heritage Fund.

"The students in the Quantum Arts Program work so hard, and their pride shines through when they demonstrate their new talents," says Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Schools for the Winnipeg School Division's North District. "Without this great program and the generous donors to the Children's Heritage Fund, many of these students might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in these types of arts classes."

Macayla Baldovi, a Grade 6 student at Sister MacNamara School, is enjoying the opportunity to show her creativity in new ways through the drama program at PTE. "I was really excited and happy when I found out I was going into drama. It's exciting to try something new, and when we're rehearsing we all laugh a lot," Baldovi says.

(More)

Dianne Palce, 10, won local drawing contests in Grade 1 and 2 but had never worked with clay before studying at the WAG. “With drawing, you have to think about what you’re going to draw. When you do clay you can do whatever you want, and it’s easier to erase,” says Palce, in Grade 5 at Glenelm School.

The students in the program have been working on individual and group projects and performances, which they will present in a Finale performance on Thursday, March 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Media are welcome to attend the finale; more information will be distributed next week.

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Media visits to WAG, PTE or RWB sessions must be scheduled in advance.

For further information and additional voices, please see the attached fact sheet, or to schedule a visit, contact:

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Quantum Arts Program – by the numbers

100 – number of Grade 5 to 8 students in the Winnipeg School Division that take part in the program every year

4 – hours per week the students study with the professional actors, dancers and artists (two hours every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during school hours)

8 – number of weeks the program lasts

3 – number of streams the students can enter: Ballet, Jazz and Modern Dance at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School; Creative Drama at Prairie Theatre Exchange; and Art at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

1989-90 – School year in which the Quantum Arts Program was launched

Additional voices

Nicole Egeland, Vice-Principal, Recreational Division, Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

(204) 957-3493

“The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School looks forward to being a part of the Quantum Arts Program each year. Opening our classrooms to share the love of what we do is an experience not only for the students, but our staff too. The program is most rewarding when you can see the progress that the students have made during the finale after only eight short weeks.”

Michael Boss, Head of Winnipeg Art Gallery Studio

(204) 789-0519

“The Quantum Arts Program is a terrific opportunity to pull artistic students together from all over the city and engage them in complex projects under the guidance of professional artists. The students are pushed to the edges of their comfort zones by their instructors with the goal of creating something spectacular. The work becomes a centrepiece of our annual Through the Eyes of a Child children’s art exhibition, and it is a real treat for us to see what they are capable of producing. We take pride in the legacy of compelling and accomplished artworks that have been produced by our Quantum students as well as the educational benefits imparted through the exploration of the creative process the program affords.”

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