

REGION

'This is not a mechanical baby'

NPSS students get in touch with creative sides in new magazine

BY FOLARIN AGBAJE

SPECIAL TO THE ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

A new literary magazine written and published by North Peace Secondary School students is revealing hidden artistic talent at the school.

Grade 10 student Christa Powers, who worked on the project, first felt the magazine – called 'This is not a Mechanical Baby' – was a success when she saw copies being distributed around the school.

"I didn't think it would actually hit it off as well as it did, but when I saw certain groups actually reading it, I was so happy I could barely contain myself," she said.

The project was started by NPSS teacher Sam Waltz as a way to encourage students to utilize their creativity. The magazine covers a range of art forms, including short stories, artwork, poetry, blogs, perspective, fake news, and book, movie and music reviews. The first issue of the

magazine, published Apr. 8, was based on science fiction, with the following issues also to be centered on a particular genre.

Waltz said he worked on a literary magazine in high school himself, and putting together the project brought back memories.

"My high school had a lit mag and I had a wonderful experience. I thought it was a great

opportunity for students to express themselves in creative work and publish articles," he said.

Grade 11 student Peter Karambelas said he believes that the whole community could one day be involved in the magazine.

"It would be exciting to get more people on board submitting their own pieces, and hopefully the existence of a literary magazine will allow for a greater appreciation of amateur writing in the community," he said.

Yet even with the popularity involved with the first issue, Powers said there are some challenges, which include students finding time to work on project, lack of involvement from outside the group and a low paper budget.

"Our office ran its paper budget and it looks like it is in a tight belt at the moment, meaning a shortage in paper supply, which will be a hindrance to our amazing ideas" she said.

Currently, the group meets on Tuesdays during lunch. The six regular contributors are Grade 12 students Britney O'Neill and Krystal Anderson; Grade 11 students Peter Karambelas and Benjamin Willems; and Grade 10 students Christa Powers and Breanna Lapointe.

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SPEAKING OF STUDENTS



Submitted photo

Thursday morning students represented their elementary schools at the SD60 Speech Contest. Ecole Central took the award for top school, and included students (L-R) Jeryn Mackey, Erin Robertson and Breila Pimm. Individual results were Erin Robertson, first place; Jeryn Mackey, second place; Tyren Arzaga, third.



Tessa Holloway/AHN

WEAVING WORDS

Grade 5 student Cassidy McAvany reaches across the page to fill in a storyboard for Goldilocks and the Three Bears with Grade 4 student Courtney Bueckert. The Baldonnel students were two of about 175 kids who took part in the Word Weavers writers conference for Grade 4 to 7 students Friday. See Tuesday's edition of the Alaska Highway News for an interview with local student turned successful cartoonist Mike Myhre, who was one of the guest speakers.



Melanie Robinson photo

The Fingerplay exhibition at Central Elementary featured three silent auction items as well, with money from the auction benefiting the school. Here, Jean Gammage proudly displays her win of a fossil platter made by local Louise Framst. Other winners included Jodi Howard and Suzon Anne Tremblay.

DEC 10, 2008



Melanie Robinson photo

Students in a grade one-two class at Central Elementary were happy to make the draw for the door prizes at the Finger Play exhibition, held at the school since Nov. 7. The exhibition featured pieces of local work including platters made by Louise Framst and Heather Hannaford and a dragon sculpture made by Rosemary Landry. From left: Gabrielle Kemp, Cooper Beamish, Suzon Anne Tremblay, Adam Nelson and Sarah Kalis Weeber

NEXT-GENERATION JOURNALISM

Bert Bowes student wins national writing competition

ALEISHA HENDRY
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

When Jill Aalhus went to Ottawa for Encounters with Canada for a week back in October, she had aspirations to be a novelist.

When she returned, her sights had turned to journalism after she won a writing contest that landed her in the *Globe and Mail*.

"I was interested in writing, but I wasn't sure about journalism," said Aalhus, a Grade 10 student at Bert Bowes Junior Secondary.

"Once I went there and experienced it, I definitely changed my mind."

Aalhus was chosen to attend Encounters with Canada along with 137 other students from across Canada.

The weeklong program brings together youth from different parts of the country to teach each other about their home regions.

Students are able to choose from

a number of writing topics, including sports and fitness, law, ecology and environment, business, arts and culture and journalism.

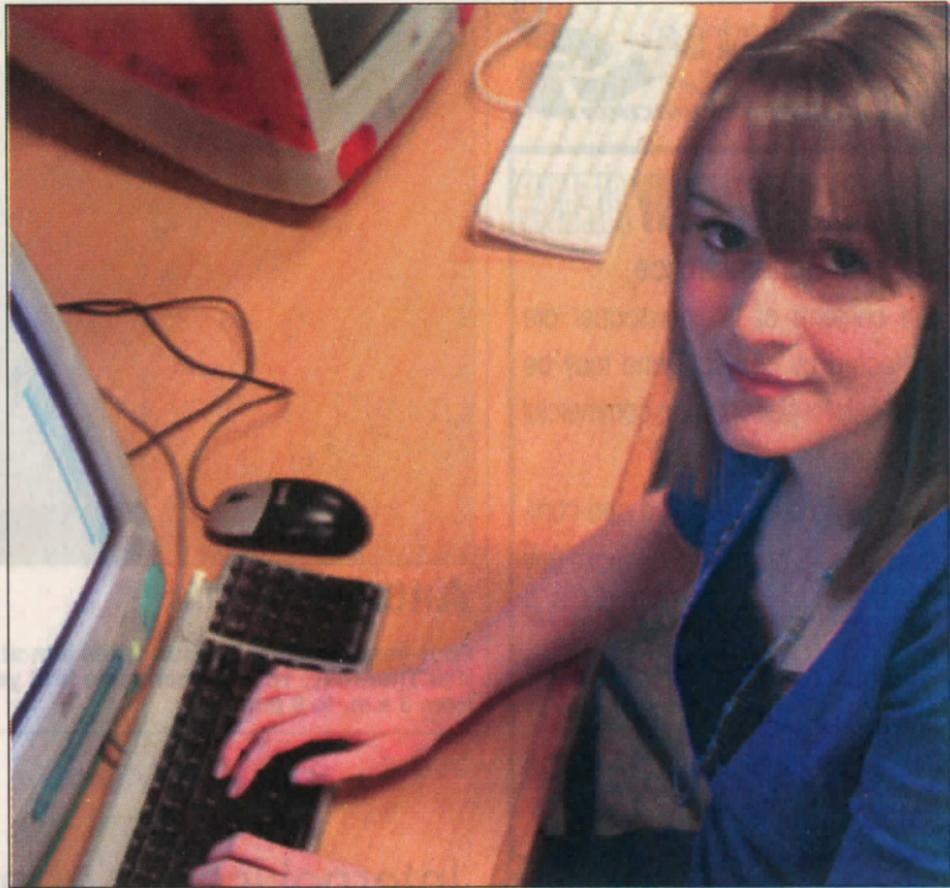
Students who took part in the journalism theme were asked to write an article about their experience in the nation's capital.

"I ended up just doing it on what I saw from the sky when I flew into Ottawa," said Aalhus, adding she was a bit nervous about travelling across the country alone.

"As we were flying in to the city I saw all these patches of black, and I was wondering what they were."

She later found out those black patches were plots of forest and park space, so she ended up writing about how Ottawa has incorporated the environment into the concrete jungle of the city.

Her bird's-eye view of the park space and preserved forest inspired her to name her winning article *Black Holes of Ingenuity*.



Aleisha Hendry/AHN

Jill Aalhus, a Grade 10 student at Bert Bowes Junior Secondary, won a journalism contest through Encounters with Canada. Her winning article about the environment appeared in the *Globe and Mail* last Saturday.



Tessa Holloway/AHN

STARTING STRONG

Painter Margaret May brushes fall colours of yellow and orange on a caribou on the wall of the reading room at the new StrongStart Centre at Robert Ogilvie School. Each of the room's walls represents a season decorated with the wildlife of northern B.C., and may even feature a canoe for children to sit in. Other walls in the new early learning centre for 3- to 5-year-olds bring fairy tales to life and depict a veterinary clinic with stuffed animals to play with. The centre will be open Monday through Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. as well as Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. starting Oct. 28. The ministry of education announced the new centre earlier this year, and it adds to an already bustling StrongStart program at Duncan Cran Elementary School.