

Autographs



Keeping the DREAM alive!

Celebrate his life and message
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Together we celebrate equity and non-violence.

Monday, January 18, 2010

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Celebration 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Ticket Requests: Nov. 16 - 19, 2009 - LIMITED SEATING

Hamilton Place Theatre

1 Summers Lane, Hamilton



Host, Samantha Walker



Queen Gee



Tom Wilson



M.L.K. Day 2009

Celebrate character through the arts!

- *Elementary and Secondary Choirs! Bands!*
- *Drummers and Dancers!*
- *Chamber Orchestra!*
- *Attend the show!*
- *Enter the Secondary contests!*

Co-Host & Assistant Stage Manager

RSVP:

Valerie Elliott 905-527-5092 ext 2285

valerie.elliott@hwdsb.on.ca

Donations of food or money to support our anti-poverty initiatives will be accepted at the door.

**"Judge not by the colour
of their skin, but by the
content of their character"**



hecfi.ca

www.hwdsb.on.ca

STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL!

Autographs

Keeping the Dream Alive

a tribute to the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

production committee

The HWDSB Executive Council and Trustees

Ken Bain - Associate Director of Education/Executive Producer Jessica Brennan - Chair of the Board

Michelle Fawcett - Producer/Lead Teacher

Alvira Pink

Nelson Stewart

Claire VanderBeek

Valerie Elliot

Sue Phillips

Carmelo Iachelli

Evelyn Myrie

Dr. Bonnie Ibawoh

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek,
but a means by which we arrive at that goal."
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you to the following students for their help backstage

- WEstview WE Team : McKenzie Kay, Rebecca Cha, Daniel Majik, Liam Ritz, Madeline Kingston (Teacher: Beth Carey)
- Co-Stage Manager Contest runners-up: Nicole Surudo (Saltfleet S.S.), Holly Brunt (Westdale S.S.) and Susan Tian (Sir John A. Macdonald S.S.)

Thank you to the following departments, organizations or individuals for providing displays in the foyer:

HWDSB Equity Department

HWDSB Safe and Caring Schools

Centre for Peace Studies at McMaster University

Hamilton Black History Committee

Janet Wilson, Author of "One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists"

Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton - Anti-Poverty & Positive Space

**Thank You to Long and McQuade Musical Instruments,
Mainway Drive Burlington for their support of this event.**

Artwork provided by Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School Art Club
John Likavec - program design and printing

She started two organizations; a women's empowerment initiative called "When Sistahs Get Together and an empowering girls club Be-You-tiful Girls Club for ages 8-16+. This initiative will host events focusing on helping to nourish their self-esteem, their self-worth, creatively, while building new friendships through creativity. She is currently organizing her 2nd Annual WSGT multicultural women's conference and 2nd Annual Be-You-tiful Girls Day, event which will be in the spring. This mother of 4 and wife feels nothing short of being truly blessed.

Tom Wilson



Over the course of a career that now spans three decades, Tom Wilson has put together a body of work impressive in both quantity and quality. A three time Juno winner, Tom Wilson is the founder of Junkhouse, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings and LeE HARVeY OsMOND. He has written songs that have scored hits around the world for himself as well as Colin James, The Rankin Family, Billy Ray Cyrus, Murray McLachlan, and Edwin and Mavis Staples. He communicates via a voice best seen as a force of nature. Seemingly spawned from the mud of the Mississippi Delta, it is steeped in the spirit of the blues. It also reflects Tom's beloved hometown, Hamilton, Ontario. It is raw, honest and unpretentious, possessing its own unique grace. If Steeltown could sing, chances are it would sound a lot like Tom Wilson.

Rousseau Junior Choir: Paige Bell, Jennifer Braun, Hannah Buchko, Nicole Chatten, Megan Childs, Hailey Chilton, Nicole Crocker, Sydney D'Alfonso, Sabrina Doyle, Jillian Earle, Emma Farr, Maya Farrelly, Cassidy Ferguson, Madelyn Ferguson, Alysha Frey, Alexa Green, Jessica Holmes, Hasti Joshi, Ashtyn Lammers, Jaida Lapsley, Grace Laurat, Jaeun Lee, Kennedy Lee, Sydney Lewis, Emma Lindeman, Julia Lisso, Madeline Madronich, Mikayla Madronich, Ella McGibbon, Brook McMillan, Emily Miller, Sawyer Neame, Karys Oldenburg, Emma Pasian, Maya Rajasingham, Nora Raymond, Stacey Rayner, Peyton Ripa, Dylan Robertson, Jessica Savelli, Drew Smith, Kate Taylor, Katie Tebbutt, Maha Upal
Rousseau Primary Choir: Pari Arora, Marie Ayres, Shaun Arsenaull, Naomi Barasch, Mark Bondy, Rebecca Brankovic, Luke Buchko, Charlotte Carmichael, Holly Connor, Owen Connor, Isabel Cooke, Jillian French, Victoria Galvin, Ben Hamilton, Benjamin Harris, Kate Holton, Lauren Humphreys, Taylor Johnstone, Jennifer Koziski, Caitlyn Laidlaw, Shawna Lammers, Hayden Lee, Sophie Lewis, Jenny Love, Ella Mallett, Emma McNabney, Sarah Oldenburg, Olivia Pasian, Ken Ramage, Abby Raymond, Curtis Rayner, Tara Rezvan, Will Fawcett Riis, Adrian Sadeghi, Ben Schurer, Isabelle Schurer, Jenna Scott, Farrah Sherrard, Katelynn Smyth, Alexander Svarc, Nicole St. Aubin, Claire Tebbutt, Sophie Templeton, Jacob Van Groningen, Elise Van Heerden, Thomas Walters, Sophie Williams, Amelia Wighardt, Christina Wirzman

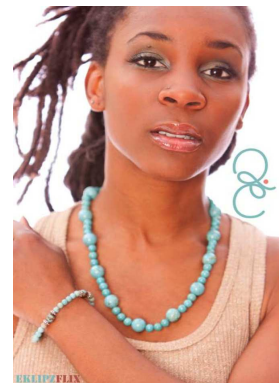
Ryerson Middle School Rock Choir Dave Repchuck – principal, Mike Dowson – director
The Ryerson School Rock Choir is an exceptionally energetic and talented group of young singers who are inspired by music ranging from The Cure to The Beatles to Jason Mraz, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. The choir whose members are in Grades 6, 7 and 8 is led by Mike Dowson and has received musical training by Dave Thierry.

Akilah Alexander, Zahra Ali Adam, Maya Amoah, Tate Angel Koyski, Taylor Barker, Briar Beach, Zoe Bedford, Ella Benedetti, Blacklock Victoria, Ruby Bokma, Ksenia Bukshytynova, Cheyene, Renee Common, Sheridan Corkins, Jessa Crerar, Genevieve Dube, Jonee Farnham, Nora Fenton, Kate Finlayson, Sarah Flaherty, Sammie Garrett, Astra Goodale, Hanna Green, Jenn Heffernan, Emma Holland, Abbey Judecki, Megan Hyett, Jenn Kannenberg, Sellam Kassa, Maddie Kay, Chloe Langedyk, Sadie Lange, Alexis Liu, Jillian Malcolm, Tianna McIntosh, Poper McKerlie, Cheyenne McLennon, Grant McLeod, Christian McNally, Kimberly McNally, Julia McNobb, Clare Miles, Gabriel Miles, Onufer Heather, Hannah Ormond-Jones, Kate Panagakos, Ayana Platt, Haley Riley, Amy Ruland, Rutlidge Kaitlin, Becky Schmo, Olivia Tharme, Emma Thomas, Balie Tomar, Jane Wallace, Karen Wen, Ethan Workson

Queen Cee

www.myspace.com/queenceemusic www.whensistahsgettogether.com

Queen Cee's career has been filled by doing many musical gigs, singing in R&B groups, lead singing for different bands and doing a lot of background vocals for artists such as Motion and Divine Brown, among other artists. She's had success landing a major role in the Broadway musical The Lion King; experience as top 3 in Global's reality show, Popstars – The One in 2002 and was even selected as a featured up and coming on Much Music's Special Superstar 101 in 2004 and continued to do her own gigs solo. Fast forwarding to 2008, Queen did two-city tour as the lead role of Deena Jones in the theatre production of Dreamgirls with Theatre Aquarius and Manitoba Theatre in Winnipeg, and then released her debut album, "Space & Time". She's been a professional vocalist for over 15 years, however she says "nothing comes before its time". She and her husband were named "One of Hamilton's 31 most inspiring and influential people. Her debut album landed her 5 nominations at the 2008 Hamilton Music Awards



to which she walked away with Best R&B/Soul Recording of the Year. Through out the year of 2008 she's graced the cover and insides of The View, Winnipeg, Manitoba's newspapers and free press, Hamilton Magazine, The Hamilton Spectator. Her track "Rest Your Mind" is getting run on Flow 93.5 and you can check out her debut video for "Hey Brotha" on youtube and her myspace music page. Aside from singing, Queen Cee has done a lot of community work and volunteering.

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

~ presents ~

Keeping the Dream Alive

a tribute to the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Host - Samantha Walkes **Co-Host - Tahiya Bakht** (Sir John A. Macdonald S.S.)
Co-Stage Manager - Tyler Adamson (Waterdown D.S.S.)

Youth Spirit Drum Circle
 Sir John A. MacDonald School
Honour Song

Rod Nettegog - Lead

Freedom Tribute Choir

Alvira Pink - conductor, Alison Slaats - accompanist
 Mike Dowson - banjo

Bennetto School, Eastdale School, Hillcrest School, Parkdale School, Viscount Montgomery School
No Man Is An Island
 by Joan Whitney and Alex Kramer
Better Man
 by Keb' Mo' (Kevin Moore)

The Cunningham Sisters
 name of song???

by Natalie, Nataiah & Natasha Cunningham

Flamborough Centre Funk Band
 Chameleon
 Knock On Wood

Nelson Stewart - director
 by Herbie Hancock
 by Eddie Floyd & Steve Cropper

~ **Tom Wilson** ~
Freedom by Tom Wilson

The East Hamilton Chamber Ensemble
 Stairway to Heaven

Ilona Spleit - director
 Led Zeppelin, arr. by Ilona Spleit

Video Tribute to Dr. King - His Life and Message

Hope and Change Tribute Choir
 Central School, R.L. Hyslop School,
 Rousseau School, Ryerson School
Dream a Dream
Stand By Me

Jeannie Hughes - conductor, Alison Slaats - accompanist
 Mike Dowson - acoustic guitar

by Ed Robertson
 by Ben E. King

Youth Spirit Drum Circle
 Sir John A. MacDonald School

Rod Nettegog - Lead

Hill Park S.S. Choir & Dancers Mark Reese - conductor; Kelly George-Dagleish - dance coach
 name of song???
 name of song???

by
 by

~ **Queen Cee** ~

True Colours by Cyndi Lauper

There for You by Queen Cee

Finale : Queen Cee, Tom Wilson and Friends

Michelle Fawcett - conductor, Alison Slaats - additional percussion
 Freedom Tribute Choir, Hope & Change Tribute Choir, Hill Park S.S. Choir, Flamborough Centre Funk Band, Young Spirit, The Cunningham Sisters, The East Hamilton Chamber Ensemble
One Love by Bob Marley

Martin Luther King Jr.



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." August, 1963

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an international figure and a social justice hero for all. He was born on January 15, 1929 in a time where racial discrimination and persecution of African Americans still strongly existed in the United States. Despite the freedom they had gained from slavery in the American Civil War of the 1860's, many southern states had created racist laws that denied them equality and justice. King was an eloquent Baptist minister in 1955-56 when he led the successful black boycott of segregated city bus lines in Montgomery, Alabama, helping to bring an end to separate black and white seating areas, and unequal treatment. In 1959 he traveled to India, and met with followers of one of the greatest leaders of nonviolent social protest – Mahatma Gandhi. This greatly influenced King in establishing his 6 Principles of Nonviolence, and 6 Steps for Nonviolent Social Change. In the decade to follow King would be involved in hundreds of nonviolent protests, including marches, boycotts, sit-ins, and speeches in the growing civil rights movement. He endured harassment, threats, and beatings, going to jail 29 times during his peaceful protests to transform a nation. On August 28, 1963 he led over 200,000 people in the **March on Washington**, from the Washington monument to the Lincoln Memorial. His now famous **"I Have a Dream"** speech would echo across the United States, challenging people to bring change for the children of their generation by ending inequality and injustice. His powerful words have been an inspiration for all around the world that change begins with each of us, by showing respect, empathy, care, acceptance, and especially courage. King would go on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his actions that were changing a nation. That year the United States Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, and in 1965 the Voting Rights Act, thanks in large part to his efforts, and hundreds of thousands of others who had the courage to become involved.



In one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life... to love and serve humanity".

1st Violins: Alan Li, Warren Yao, Stephen Zhao, Bohan Zhang, Jake Laroche **2nd Violins:** Shayna Brissett Foster, Danille Harron, Lilian Do, Michelle Wright, Darun Dezayi, Natalie Hayes, Deniqua Alexander **Violas:** Ailish Corbett, Jocelyn Murray **Cellos:** Robyn Zimmerman, Sarah Richardson **Bass:** Matthew Dunham

Hope & Change Tribute Choir

Central Elementary School Choir Debbie Rundle – principal, Nadine Wilkes-Smith - director
Anne Gregory - director

BIOGRAPHY
CHOIR LIST

R.L. Hyslop Elementary School Lisa Barzetti – principal, Jeannie Hughes – director
The Hyslop Choir for MLK is a combination of two open choirs from R.L. Hyslop. The Hyslop Half Notes are students from Grades 1-3 and the Hyslop Singers are students from Grades 4-8. Combined, this open choir of approximately 80 enthusiastic students began in the fall of 2004. The Hyslop Singers perform for our school community at assemblies such as Remembrance Day, December Celebrations, Spring Concert, as well as the Grade 8 graduation ceremony. They have participated in HWDSB Choirfest three times and they have participated in MLK twice. It is certainly a highlight of the year for these students!

Logan Allen, Nicholas Ambrose, Morgan Atkinson, Halle Bachiu, Khushbhu Bhamra, Shannon Blake, Madison Brooks, Kaylie Church, Abbey Cole, Alexxa Cservenyak, Haille Cservenyak, Brayden Daigneault, Faith Deachman, Aida Dragic, Brady Dyer, Billie-Jo Edwards, Sky Evans, Rebecca Gallant, Trinity Garrison, Rowan Garrow, Emily Gondar, Isabela Gondar, Natasa Gondar, Megan Guarascia, Loreta Gubetini, Xheneta Gubetini, Madison Hunter, Tyler Johnson, Abigail Lampman, Hannah Lewis, Carrie MacLean, Kim Maddock, Rebecca Maddock, Emily McAlpine, Skylar McCoy, Nicole McLean, Samantha Markwick, Jovana Minic, Megan Morse, Memphis Mount, Rachel Mulay, Elissa Mullins, Kaitlin Mullins, Shari Nash, Brianna Nelson, Chante Njihia, Tatiyana Njihia, Bojana Novakovic, Rebecca Pickston, Alisha Pocobene, Ella Prouix, Jasbir Sanghra, Austin Sheppard, Jackson Smith, Alyssa Spencer, Kataya Thibodeau, Alicia Thompson, Skylar Titley, Hailey Turner, Emily Warburton, Megan Warrenner, Megan White, Rachel White, Makayla Wolaniuk, Savannah Wolaniuk, Dawson Vullings, Sydney Zorony.

Rousseau Elementary School Choir Wanda Lane – principal, Michelle Fawcett – director
Alison Slaats – accompanist

The Rousseau Choir is thrilled to be able to help "keep the dream alive" through their love of music as they attend their fifth consecutive MLK celebration at Hamilton Place. Approximately 40 students in Rousseau's Primary Choir, under the direction of Janet Raymond, have joined forces with 40 more in the Junior Choir, under the direction of Michelle Fawcett, to make music at several events in the Rousseau community. They sing annually at the Ancaster Chapters in honour of Rousseau Night, and make music at most monthly assemblies, including Rousseau's Remembrance Day program. Many choir members also comprise the cast of Rousseau's 2010 production of "The Aristocats", running May 6, 7, and 8th. Eighty Rousseau students from grade 1 to 6 are excited about sharing the big Hamilton Place stage with so many other talented students and performers on MLK Day, as we celebrate the life and message of a true social justice hero!

The Cunningham Sisters

Natalie, Nataiah, & Natasha Cunningham

2009 was a busy year for The Cunningham Sisters! It was just last January when The Cunningham Sisters performed the debut of their original song "Superman" for Martin Luther King Day at Hamilton Place. Following that performance the girls were very excited and honoured to be invited to Ottawa to perform their SUPERMAN song to Welcome President Obama to Canada on Feb 19, 2009. Interviews on CBC and City TV followed. Word of the "sisters from Hamilton" spread worldwide, with interviews and radio airplay across the country and overseas. The girls wrote more songs and released singles throughout the year. In the spring, The Cunningham Sisters performed at "Girlz Night Out" in Toronto, sharing the bill with The Stereos, Ocean Buried, and members of the Degraasi TV show cast. In the summer of '09, Faze Magazine invited The Cunningham Sisters to perform at the Miss Teen Canada "I Will WOW You Event", sharing the stage with Shilo, Evan Biddell, Jessica Tyler, Katie Starke and the 54 Miss Teen World finalists. George Marcello, founder of The Organ Donation Foundation in Canada, has awarded The Cunningham Sisters "Student Torch Champions". In the fall of '09 they had the honour of carrying The Torch of Life, which George originally had blessed by Pope John Paul II to help raise awareness for organ donations. George has embraced the girls and their powerful message through SUPERMAN which he has requested as his campaign theme song. On Martin Luther King Day 2010, the girls will be debuting their new single "The Seasons of Love", a thank-you to their friends, fans and family for such a memorable 2009! The Cunningham sisters are working on material to complete their upcoming CD of original songs with producer Carl Jennings.

Flamborough Funk Band

Flamborough Centre Elementary School L. Wigood – principal, Nelson Stewart – director
Nathan "Maestro" Henderson - assistant director, Rose Giammichele - teacher-supervisor

Flamborough Centre bands have performed on TV, in parades, at Canada's Wonderland, retirement homes, shopping malls, schools, charity events, the Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Black History celebrations, and at the Hamilton Education Summit. This is our 4th Hamilton Place concert honouring Dr. Martin Luther King. Over the years members of the bands have performed with the Burlington Teen Tour Band, the Waterdown Show Band, or recorded and toured with their own bands. The "Flaming Guitar" emblem they wear proudly on their shirts symbolizes their passion for great music, hard work, and sense of community. The "Flaming Guitar" also features prominently on the cover of FC MUSIC's new CD, "Rock & Soul", which includes songs by Stevie Wonder, The Commodores, The Bar-Kays, Isaac Hayes, Queen, The Police, Tom Cochrane, and others. The bands have become popular across the U.S. where many of their CDs have been sold.

Spencer Daye, Harold Lachance, Matt Davidson, Trevor "Skyranger" Paul, Mitch "Old Man" Forth, Machaela Morris, Madie Kenney, Josie Redshaw, Emily Long, Hannah "Moose" Bailey, Holly McCann, Chantelle Van Dalen, Cailleigh "Sangy" Sangster, Stephanie Cox, Hannah Graham, Sophie McCann, Mackenzie Boers, Angela Thorn, David "Spiderman" Parker, Cathy Huang, Lucy "T-Bone" Martin-Johnson "Please email nelson.stewart@hwdsb.on.ca for information on purchasing our CDs. All proceeds go to the FC Music Program."

The Hamilton East Chamber Ensemble Ilona Spleit– director
Jennifer Spleit, Oswin Spleit, Lezlie Laroche : Assistants

The aim of this ensemble is to perform music at a professional level. The chamber ensemble tackles advanced level music of all genres (classical, jazz, blues, rock) using original, as well as self-arranged music popular today. Over the past 12 years, the ensemble has performed all over southern Ontario for many prestigious events. It has been a winner of Music Festivals held in Burlington, Hamilton and Toronto. Performing at the Provincial level this ensemble is a five-time winner. One of the more enjoyable events with which this ensemble has been involved is the Martin Luther King tribute concert. This is its 6th year of participating. Graduates of HECE include a Royal Conservatory Adjudicator, performers in orchestras around the world (including our own Hamilton Philharmonic), teachers in string programs and conservatories in Canada and students studying music at the university level and master's level around the world.

Tragically, on April 4, 1968, at the age of 39 years old, he was assassinated in Memphis Tennessee. Through the efforts of Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, the King Centre was established in 1968, to carry on his work of promoting nonviolent social change to promote justice, equality and peace. Coretta Scott King also successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress to establish a national holiday in 1986 in Dr. King's honour, which is held the third Monday in January. It is a day of interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing, recognized with commemoration events in over 100 nations around the world. Regardless of your cultural background, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King Jr. had of promoting a spirit of brother and sisterhood to make our world a better place for all. He wrote extensively about social causes, including the issue of poverty in America, and in the world. This was going to be the next great service he was going to make – serving as a voice for the impoverished. Read over below Dr. King's 6 Principles of Nonviolence, and his 6 Steps to Nonviolent Social Change, and take time to think about your part – are you a voice for social change, and if not, how can you be?

6 Principles of Nonviolence:

Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage; it seeks reconciliation, not the defeat of an adversary; is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying the evil-doer; willingly accepts suffering for the cause if necessary, but never inflicts it; rejects hatred, animosity or violence; and has faith that justice will prevail.

6 Steps for Nonviolent Social Change:

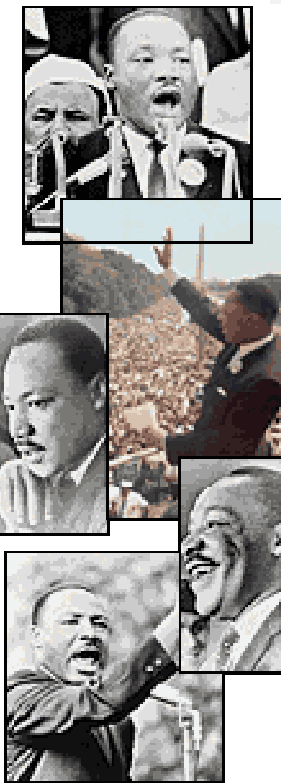
King's six steps involve information gathering and research to get the facts straight; the education of adversaries and the public about the facts of the dispute; a personal commitment to nonviolent attitudes and action; negotiating with an adversary in a spirit of goodwill to correct injustice; taking action peacefully to persuade or compel an adversary to change; and reconciliation of adversaries for a win-win outcome.

If you are an educator, perhaps these principles and steps can provide a great follow-up discussion or lesson topic after today's events. For further information, please check out the following websites:

<http://www.thekingcenter.org>
<http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu>

May we also seek to serve humanity by living Dr. King's teachings in our words and actions every day, being a voice for positive social change – for justice, equality and peace – for the 21st Century.

Yvan Brochu
Head of History
Highland Secondary School



Samantha Walkes – Host

Samantha Walkes: Local Talent with a passion for theatre, singing and the stage, born and bred in the heart of Hamilton. Samantha was the only contestant from our city to compete in HDYSAPLM ("How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria?") CBC's television series which took place in the spring of 2008. Samantha made it to the Top 20 in Canada and travelled to London (UK) where she met and performed for Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber at the London Palladium. She also auditioned and made the vocalist for Hamilton All-Star Jazz Band (2007-08). Samantha's debut performance as "Maria" in Theatre Ancaster's production, The Sound of Music, in November 2007 was a great success. Samantha was featured numerous times in local newspapers in and around Hamilton acclaiming her unique and stunning performance as a Black Afro-Caribbean Canadian. While attending Brock University in a double honours program for English and Dramatic Arts, Samantha will be starring in a CURE Canada production for the first time called ShAIDS of Grey (March 2010). She still desires a life on the stage and continues to pursue her dream. In March she will audition for some of the most prestigious Acting and Theatre Schools in the US and UK. She promises to return to Education in the near future as it is her deep conviction to inspire the children of our future and to share all the gifts she has been given to use.

Sir John A. Macdonald Art Club D. Pente – principal, Richard Kowalchuk – instructor
BIOGRAPHY

*Fahima Begum, Mary Deason, Kendy Dor, Mallory Koomen, Phuong Le, Tyler Mattinson
Ajeng Rodianti, Josh Wald, Rebecca Wald.*

Young Spirit

Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School Don Pente - principal
Rod Nettegog - Lead/Cultural Outreach worker Joshua Dockstator NYAWEH Coordinator/Youth Worker

Young Sprit was formed through the NYAWEH program at SJAM. Many Aboriginal students have had their culture systematically taken away from them which leads to a loss of identity. One of the missions of the NYAWEH program is to reintroduce the youth to their culture, the drum is just one of the ways that is presented to them. It is also a way for a once proud and vibrant culture to reclaim the voices that were taken away from them many years ago.

Jacob Hill, Christian Budrick, PJ Kirkby, Keith Anderson, Kyle Laforme, and Elijah Kisisswa.

Freedom Tribute Choir

Bennetto Elementary School Choir Lindy Millen – principal, Susan Zambiasi – director

The Bennetto Choir was started four years ago and has become a vital part of Bennetto life. From approximately 15 girls in the first year, we are now at 40-50 members. This year our schedule has included a variety of concerts around the city including the Veteran's Day Service at Veteran's Affairs, Social Justice Day, Bennetto's Cultural Day, and our annual Christmas Concert. We are thrilled to be part of the MLK day once again because BENNETTO is a great example of a school with many different cultures, races, and religious beliefs. We know how important it is to keep the doors of communication, understanding, tolerance, and empathy always open!! Our school strives to be that example on a day to day basis!

Hanan Abdisamat, Kazi Akther, Ghamama Ali, Brianna Alves, Selah Bishop, Shauny Boivin, Kayla Bradley, Ruqiya Bulhan, Aicha Camara, Fatima Camara, Amy Chesbro, Shauna Coates, Ashley Cousins, Ameena Davison, Corina Dos Santos, Jazmin Elliott, Jonathon Fraser, Katie Gavin, Liz Hart, Brittany Hersey, Tionna Hull, Kansas Larkin, Samantha Lautamus, Raveyn Levely, Winnie Luu, Ashley Marshall, Anna Massiah, Alisha Mathieu, Devlin Mc Combe, Raquel Meldrum, Colin Mines, Kadija Mohamed, Kassy Munn, Sandy Nguyen, Christina Peters, Cathy Phong, Tina Phong, Emma Ziolkowski, Razan Saleh, Teya Stankovic, Kealy Stones, Denisha Taylor, Chanel Young

Eastdale Elementary School Choir

Denise Minardi - principal,
Alvira Pink - director, Vicki Kovacevic - co-director

The Eastdale choir is made up of students from grades 4 to 8. The choir began practising together in September 2009. We practice once a week after school. The choir has performed at a few school assemblies. The students involved are very dedicated and love to sing. The choir director is Mrs. Alvira Pink, who is the Literacy Improvement Project Teacher at Eastdale School. Mrs. Vicki Kovacavic, grade 5 teacher, assists with the choir.

Sumun Basson, Delvina Berisha, Monica Cazzaro, Sukhpreet Chohan, Japnam Deol, Baljot Dhaliwal, Colling Do, Cole Doherty, Patricia Fannon, Marie Ferko, Sadie Fowler, Roohit Grewal, Hailey Harwood, Rachel Horvath, Sandra Husidic, David Jandric, Taylor Korolenchuk, Erindeep Mannan, Nawid Mehrpoor, Jessica Murray, Anmol Ohaliwal, Mishelle Pardiac, Rade Pereula, Meagan Peteres, Kajal Phull, Alessandra Puglielli, Lauren Robinson, Alyssa Ruys, Helena Segrt, Saloni Tattar, Miriam Waseem, Jessica White, Taylor Wilkins, Sarah Zahid, Natalie Zarac, Alexia Zarac

Hillcrest Elementary School Choir Gord Cook - principal Sandy Batenburg - director

Our small choir has had a change of leadership this year and we are starting to define ourselves. Hillcrest choir consists of students from grades 4-8, many who have been dedicated members for many years. Our choir sings for school functions and participates in the Wonderland Music Festival. Waard Al-Ahrra Habib, Emilee Champigny, Alexis Daro, Mary-Catharine Garson, Brandi Hie, Aaron Howlet, Denzel Innis, Dallas Osbourne, Elizabeth Lafontaine, Courtney Lancaster, Angelica Larochelle, Brody Maisonville, Katie McGowan, Angus McIntyre, Jenny Nalepa, Kayla Nowlan, Denny Petrovic-Zoric, Cado Phair, Gracie Redding, Hailey Rodgers, Jude Salomon, Anthony Schivcharan, Shauna Soulliere, Faris Youssef

Parkdale Elementary School Choir Peter Maliphant - principal

Lucinda (Cindy) Stewart, Glen Brown - co-directors

It's the 3rd year singing together for the Parkdale Junior Choir and the 2nd year participating in MLK. Grades 3,4, & 5 students enjoy performing at the Remembrance Day assembly, Christmas concert and the Farewell assembly. The choir has also performed at Parkdale's Earth Day celebrations and 60th anniversary. The residents of Grace Villa delight in the choir's yearly visit and the Parkdale community wait with anticipation for the choir to host the spring concert. First it was "Parkdale Goes Country", then "Parkdale Rocks to the Oldies" featuring music from the 50's and 60's. This April they will present "I've Got the Music in Me" with songs from the 70's and 80's. Adding to the excitement for the students is the opportunity to get involved with dance routines, costumes and scenery. The Parkdale Primary Choir joins the Junior choir at many events as well.

April Arsenault, Stephen Baker, Jennaugh Baughan, Shayna Beaver, Cole Blanche, Jade Chen, Kaela Corlis, Shamonique Dockery, Ashley Dwarka, Abigail Enriquez-Perez, Rushel Forrester, Celina Fitzpatrick, Candice Gairns, Jasmine Gregory, Darien Gromadzki, Melanie Hutchinson-Rodgers, Stephanie Hutchinson-Rodgers, Sebastian Kein, Melissa Kyma, Rosie Leggott, Johnny LePine, Blake O'Brien, Eboni McKenzie, Myliek McKenzie, Rebecca McNally, Chloe Michie, Summer Millben, Shannon Mitchell, Sharlee Moffat, Mia Mohamed, Alexis Musytschuk, Cailin Provo, Vanessa Prunean, Aleesha Ramage, Aleycia Ritchie, Madison Schrock, Ashley Slater, Michaela Wilcockson, Aspen Van Wort, Erin Van Wort, Emma Young, Julia Young

Viscount Montgomery School Choir Dan Ivankovic - principal

Brenda E. Brown - director, Gino Borean - accompanist

The Viscount Montgomery School Choir is a junior/ intermediate choir and that was formed in 2007. Since beginning they have performed at numerous in school functions including their annual Christmas concerts and they have participated in Choir Fest, and last year received a Silver standing. The choir has also performed at the Wonderland Music Festival for the past two years and looks forward to returning to both of those venues again this year. We are thrilled to be a part of the MLK celebration ! Courtney Allen, Sydney Amero, Bailey Bagrel, Meagan Barrey, Sandra Beaton, Jacob Brandt, Julie Casperson, Steven Collen, Katie Dimmock, Chelsea Dixon, Taylor Downs, Nekeisha Francis, Rebecca Flynn, Jane Forb, Megan Gramigna, Bailey Grant, Sim Hines, Sarah Hordienko, Shannon Hughe, Destiny Laforme, Lauren Ledlie, Rachel Lin, Katie Ludewigt, Sydney Murray, Katie O'Donnell, Jennifer O'Hara, Amethyst Paquette, Nicole Prince, Shawnie Prince, Ashley Taunton, Meghan Vanderbeek