

Global classroom comes to Beausejour

By Edna Barrie

Students from five schools gathered at the Sun Gro Centre in Beausejour last week to take part in an inspiring youth conference in a global classroom setting.

On Nov. 25, middle year students from East Selkirk, Beausejour, Springfield, Steinbach and Whitemouth were Generating Momentum for Our World – Making the Grade: Girls and Boys in the Global Classroom.

The conference presented students with the opportunity to learn, discuss and understand the situations some people face in other parts of the world regarding living conditions and other problems.

This is the fourth year for this informative conference, organized by the Manitoba Council for In-

ternational Co-operation, (MCIC) which is an umbrella group for over 40 organizations involved in international development such as Canada World Youth, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, UNICEF Canada and World Vision Canada.

Janice Hamilton, Executive Director of MCIC stated these conferences are held in five locations in Manitoba and involve 40 to 50 schools throughout the province.

“Students get information about boys and girls that are of school age around the world. They learn why some don’t go to school as well as some of the social and economic barriers that make a difference,” Hamilton said.

She commented that in developing countries, issues like poverty, child labour,

war and conflict, as well as water and sanitation are major issues that contribute to why many children do not receive an education. As an example, in many countries, girls are responsible for fetching water and doing chores, leaving them unable to go to school.

Through a series of circuit sessions, this conference taught those in attendance about gender inequality as it pertained to education. Instructors at the sessions used workshops and simulation games to help the students understand the issues. They learned that in many developing countries, boys and girls are treated differently. That is why only 46 percent of girls graduate high school and only eight per cent go on to university or college.

School fees are also a problem for many families. They do not have the

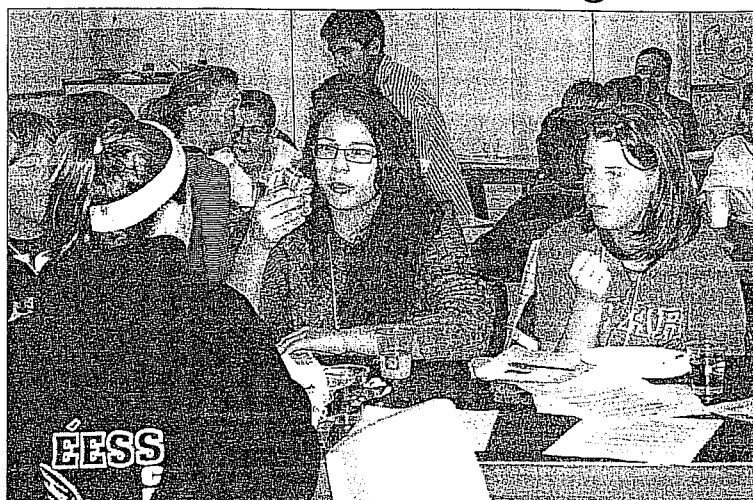


Photo by Edna Barrie

Middle years students from five schools attended the Generating Momentum for Our World conference Nov. 25.

funds to pay to send their children to school. Issues of uniforms and books also contribute to the added burden of a meagre income.

Recently Tanzania abolished fees for primary schools, resulting in many more children attending school.

Participants were able to hear from Lao Jaw from Nunavut and John Wachira from Kijabe, Kenya – participants in the Canada World Youth Exchange Program – as they were interviewed on the school systems in their communities.

Wachira discussed the topic of uniforms and commented that in Kenya, students take pride in their school and like wearing uniforms because their economic standing cannot be identified by clothes.

“Everyone wears the same uniform,” Wachira said. “If a youth in a uniform is wandering the streets, they are quickly asked why they are not in school.”

The Nov. 25 conference covered issues dealing with literacy, poverty, water and sanitation. Following this conference, students are encouraged to organize an event to share the in-

formation in their school and communities. Bringing awareness to the issues helps solve problems and build understanding.

Due to inclement weather, Blumenort and Pinawa Secondary Schools were unable to attend the con-

ference.

For those who braved the weather, however, it is hoped that they are able to take something back to their schools and communities. Hopefully they will raise awareness and therefore bring about change.

A sweet deal

Kyla Berger cheerfully dishes out desserts at the Association for Community Living (ACL) Tea and Bake Sale fund raiser Nov. 26. Tables full of Beausejour and area residents came to support ACL, enjoy goodies, coffee/tea and good company.

Photo by Edna Barrie

Sunrise School Division

Kindergarten Registration and Grade 1 Beginners - For September 2011

Eligibility Requirement for

Kindergarten: Children must be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2011
Grade 1: Children must be six (6) years of age on or before December 31, 2011
Children previously enrolled in Kindergarten classes DO NOT need to be re-registered.

Dates of Registration

Monday to Friday, January 24 to 28, 2011

Mornings: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Afternoons: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. unless otherwise specified

Programs in Three (3) languages offered to all children beginning in Kindergarten or Grade 1 at the following centres:

Anola School	866-2962	English
Beausejour Early Years School	268-2664	English & French Immersion (Monday till 7:00 pm)
Centennial School	345-2462	English (Tuesday till 7:00pm)
École Dugald School	853-7929	English & French Immersion (Monday till 7:00 pm)
Gillis School	268-4353	English
Hazelridge School	755-2214	English
Oakbank Elementary School	444-2473	English & English/Ukrainian (Monday till 7:00 pm)
École Powerview School	367-2296	English & French Immersion
Reynolds School	426-5559	English
Whitemouth School	348-2595	English
Grafton Colony School	268-2507	English
Greenwald Colony School	265-3522	English