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# THE WINNIPEG RIVER CLIPPER WEEKLY

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## Centennial teacher earns global citizenship award

By Dianne Hamill

At a time when most teachers are preparing to hand out awards, Centennial School's Naomi Harley is accepting one of her own.

The Grade 5 and 6 teacher in Lac du Bonnet has been awarded the 'Global Citizenship' award for educators from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

In its inaugural year, the award acknowledges educators who are leaders in promoting and supporting global citizenship within their schools.

"These educators have gone the extra mile to educate young Manitobans about global issues and empower them to take action

to improve the lives of children, youth, people with disabilities and those living in poverty within and beyond our borders." Janice Hamilton, executive director of MCIC, said about the award.

"It's a way of recognizing those teachers who go out of their way to do this work."

The 2012 award was also given to Paul Cuthbert, superintendent of Evergreen School Division in the Interlake, Jennifer Lehman from Green Valley School in Grunthal and Lois McGill-Horn from Winnipeg's Balmoral Hall.

A global citizenship award, already in its fourth year, is also handed out to Manitoba students who have engaged in meaningful leadership and global citizenship volunteer activities aimed at creating a more just and sustainable world. This year, Oakbank's Andrew Chudley of College Pierre Elliott Trudeau was among the four recipients.

"It's a huge honour to have such a special award," Harley said about receiving the 2012 educators award.

Committed to helping students realize the impact they can have on the world, Harley started the 'Fair Trade Action Committee' in Centennial School five years ago.

"It was supposed to be a one year thing but the students were so motivated, it just continued to grow," Harley said, adding the committee has jumped from six to

34 students in Grade 4 to 6 since its beginnings.

Focusing on raising awareness about the issues facing people around the world, the group works to promote global citizenship in an effort to make the world a better place.

As part of the Five Days of Freedom - a campaign created by Free the Children to raise awareness about issues of poverty and exploitation facing children around the world - the committee developed an awareness campaign to help educate their fellow students about poverty, thirst, disease and exploitation.

Led by Harley, committee members designed and taught lessons, including activities showing what it's like to haul water or work in a fireworks factory, to fellow students throughout the week-long event.

Despite the long hours it takes to organize the committee, Harley said student dedication makes it worth the extra effort.

"It doesn't take a lot to motivate them, they want to help and take action. Every moment with them makes it all worthwhile."

As part of the global citizenship award, each winner receives \$100 to be given to the charity of his or her choice. Harley's donation will go to the Free the Children campaign on behalf of Centennial School.

The Manitoba Council for



## Summer sliding

Photo by Lory Minton

Four-year-old Whitemouth resident Kaitrin Kurian makes the most of the summer sun as she hits the slide.



Naomi Harley, a teacher at Centennial School, has been awarded the 'Global Citizenship' award.

International Cooperation is a coalition of over 40 organizations involved in international development. An independent non-profit organization, MCIC is responsible for distributing Government of

Manitoba funds designated for international development and emergency relief and rehabilitation and works within Manitoba to build understanding and engagement on international issues.

## NORTH EASTMAN GRADUATION 2012

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