

Several students become published authors

Last week, Lisa Gibson's 2009-2010 eighth graders and freshmen were notified they were to become published authors for their poetry and essay writing.

Mrs. Gibson submitted their writing last spring to the Creative Communication Writing Contest. Over half of both classes had their work published.

With this accomplishment, the school will be receiving a "Poetic Achievement Award" and a "Writing Achievement Award." These honors are given to the top 10 percent of the schools who entered the contest.

The schools are chosen based on the number and quality of the entries accepted. With this honor of having their work published, they have the opportunity to buy the essay or poetry anthology book.

"I am so excited and proud of these students!" Mrs. Gibson said.

"What a great accomplishment for these students to become a published author in their young lives!"

Following are some of the essays. In the future, all the essays will be printed in *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Real vs Imaginary

By Ally Northrup, Grade 9

For over two thousand years, unicorns have inspired, enchanted, and enthused humanity. The unicorn appears in Old Testament texts, as well as Greek and Roman history and mythology. Christians also adopted it as a symbol of Christ. Do they exist, though?

The legend of the unicorn has changed over many years. Some people believe that unicorns actually became extinct about 10,000 years ago. Others think they are just animals with genetic disorders. Other one-horned animals are the European rhinoceros, the single-horned goat, and the narwhal.

In 1663, people discovered fossils and bones of an animal they believed to have been a unicorn in central Germany. Some people think they just built a unicorn out of bones from a mammoth and other creatures. Others suppose that this could be a real mammal.

The unicorn is considered to be the noblest of all animals. The unicorn has the body of a horse with a horn in the middle of the head. Unicorns are regarded as symbols of purity and spiritual unity. It was once said that when pursued by a human they are tireless, but when

approached by a virgin they are calm and collected.

In conclusion, I imagine that there is some form of a unicorn out there somewhere. Although other people make a mockery out of them and put them in fairy tales and picture books, I stand strong behind the idea of unicorns. Do you think that unicorns are real? I do, and I hope to see one someday.

Inspirational Leaders

By Aly Schlepp, Grade 8

Has anyone inspired you in your lifetime? Has anyone ever given you the courage or confidence to do anything? Those people are called inspirational leaders. They can persuade you to do a tremendous amount of things.

People at any age can have an influence in your life. Some of the most chosen inspirational leaders are presidents, celebrities, athletes, and even relatives. Any person is qualified for the role of an inspirational leader. Celebrities have icons they admire too, just like anyone else.

Taylor Swift appreciates her grandmother, who was an opera singer that inspired Taylor to pursue her dreams. Selena Gomez respects Rachel McAdams. I chose to research these ladies because I look up to them. They have helped the world and inspired young girls to follow their dreams.

Today, people have created foundations to help young children make excellent choices by people they are around. The Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation is a foundation for young children. They are also community activities which can help young people.

Are you willing to change your perspective on what people need and what you can do for young people that require some guidance? The next time you have the opportunity to help somebody, I hope you choose to do so, because there are many people that could use your help. Are you willing to help?

My Hobbies

Aubrey Mills, Grade 9

Do you have a favorite place you like to go to veg out? Do you have a place that you like to release all your worries?

My favorite place is on my farm with all the animals. I remember the first time I went to the farm. I was about ten and my dad took me out to help fix fence. At first, I didn't enjoy it. I thought it was a lot

of work until I looked over the hill and saw the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. The beautiful sights I saw were the hills, green soapweeds, the wind blowing softly, and all the cattle at the bottom of the creek. As I stood there and looked at this sight, I became really happy and all my worries left me. Just to stand there, looking at all the wildlife, and watching them play and run around is great. To be able to know that we have all these animals which God gave to us to enjoy is a great feeling.

When I got older, I was able to help with many more things, including to round up cattle, cutting off their horns (which I do not like to do), and to help sort them into pairs. My favorite thing to do is to just take a chair, sit on a hill, and look at the beautiful sights with my dog.

I hope that you have a favorite place like mine and enjoy it as much as I do.

Friendship

Bailey Merklin, Grade 8

Friends are forever. Or are they? Have you ever lost a friend that you were close to? Do you remember your very first best friend? Do you still consider each other best friends? As a teenager, I know what it's like to lose and gain friends.

The saying, "You can gain a friend in a year, but lose a friend in a minute," is truer than I could've imagined. When I first experienced the agony of losing my very best friend, it killed me on the inside. When someone loses a friend, there can be many possibilities of why it happened; lost in trust, rumors, or maybe even personality differences. Do you remember why it occurred for you?

I met my first true best friend in first grade. I was the new student in St. Francis, and she was the nicest person I met. All I had to do was be myself. My friends know me for who I am, not who I'm trying to be. True friends will stay with you through the thick and thin; if they don't, then why bother?

We may lose friends, we may gain friends, but how is anyone going to know what their future is like? The friend I had in first grade is no longer my very best friend. We still are friends, but I guess you could say, we have both moved on. It amazes me with what can happen in a second. All in all, are friends really forever?

Cross Current Youth Conference

Blaine Guggenmos, Grade 9

On June 18 and 19, my youth group is going to a conference in Hays. The conference is a place where teenagers go to church, have fun, and meet with other Christians. Sometimes adults will listen to the speakers also.

I went to the conference last year and it was tons of fun. The first day I got there, everyone ate pizza and played on the Nintendo. After everyone was done eating, we went into this huge gym, played dodgeball, and placed third. The team who places first gets to compete against the band members. After we are eliminated out of dodgeball, we get to walk around, talk to people, and play more games.

On the second day I was there, we went to church. During church, there are concerts while the speakers are talking and sometimes there will be games. After the concert, we go to these tables to sign and draw on the tablecloths. Afterwards we go to a live concert. Last year the band was "Remedy Drive" and I loved them. Then we talk to the band and get autographs. This then concludes the weekend.

So take my advice and go to the conference. It is the most amazing experience in the world!

Flood in Nashville, Tenn.

Casey Keller, Grade 9

Hurricane Katrina, the Chile hurricane, tornadoes, or golf ball-sized hail can definitely change a person's life. The people in Tennessee definitely saw a change in their life due to nature. The first weekend of May, 2010, was a big, depressing day for the people in Nashville. Stores and businesses were damaged, streets were gone, and there was 1.66 million dollars in damage and still counting!

Since Nashville is the capitol of country music, there is going to be a massive concert for the recovery of the flood called Nashville Rising this summer. Ke\$ha, Taylor Swift, Jason Aldean, Brooks & Dunn, and Carrie Underwood are going to be there. They plan on raising money for the city that they love to share their country music with. Taylor Swift donated \$500,000 to help with the recovery.

All the music attractions were also destroyed. One of those attractions was the Grand Ole Opry. Jason Aldean said that famous instruments were damaged and the only thing saved was the wooden circle in the stage of the Opry. Some say that wooden circle is the "heart" of country music.

For the people that live there, their homes are gone or roughly knocked out. Twenty-nine people have died so far with the flood and tornadoes. Eleven schools got out of school for a week because of the damage to the schools. With all of this damage and destruction that happened to these people's homes, they deserve help. What can you do to help these people?

The Super Bowl

Derek Queen, Grade 8

The twenty...the ten...touch-down! These are some common words you may hear at one of America's favorite sporting events, the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl is the showdown between the best teams of the National Football League (NFL). With a name like that, you know it has to be a great event. It occurs at the end of the season, when the two best teams of the football season go head to head in a full-fledged battle.

The two teams must go through a series of trials to reach the Super Bowl. First, it starts with the regular season, and then proceeds to the playoffs. Six teams from each conference (the NFC or National Football Conference and the AFC or American Football Conference) advance to the playoffs. That number gets cut down until there are only two teams left. After that, it's time for the big event; the Super Bowl itself.

The Super Bowl started Jan. 5, 1967. It was a showdown between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs. This game started one of football's greatest traditions. With over 60 million television viewers, it was truly an incredible event.

Ever since that great day, football has evolved even more. The equipment has improved, the injury rates have gone down, stadium values have increased, and even the number of teams has grown. How do you feel that the Super Bowl has changed football?

I'm in It to Win It

Dylan Peter, Grade 9

"I play to win, whether during practice or a real game. And I will not let anything get in the way of me and my competitive enthusiasm to win." □ Michael Jordan. That quote to me is how I see the world.

When I do something, whether it's playing basketball or writing a history report, I want to be the best. When I'm not the best at something, I work at it until I can compete with the best.

I can't stand to be doing some-

thing with a person who doesn't care about the outcome. To me, that's a way of saying that he or she just doesn't care. It also takes the enjoyment of straight, hard-nosed competition out of it.

Some people disagree and say that everybody should receive something for just doing whatever they do. I disagree. I don't think someone should receive a medal or trophy for getting second, third, or fourth in a competition; what did they win?

I chose this quote to describe my thoughts about competition, which are pretty simple. I think Michael Jordan has won everything he's ever done because he despised losing more than anyone else. That came from his competitive nature. If you ever watched him play, you could tell he was going to do everything he had to accomplish to win.

Those are my thoughts about why competition is important. Do you feel as pro-competitive as I do?

Parkour

Dylan Wolaver, Grade 9

Parkour...do you recognize this word?

It is a sport or athletic activity in which the participant seeks to move quickly and fluidly through an area, often an urban locale. There are obstacles such as walls, railings, and leaping across open spaces which can present a problem. This is not just a sport, but a passion. I will take you through many views of this exhilarating activity.

Parkour first originated in France recently and is taking the world by storm. This sport challenges in many ways, such as flexibility, coordination, stamina, and many more. I believe Parkour is as much of a challenge as football or wrestling, trust me, I do both of these sports.

I was first introduced to Parkour by my friends Blaine and Teddy. When they first showed me, I thought they were pure crazy. I was proven wrong. As soon as I tried it, I was addicted, and we often participate in it every weekend.

While doing Parkour, you often fall or land pretty hard and it hurts. I almost got a concussion from doing it once. When you fall, you have to pick yourself up and try it again and again before you can finally do it.

Here is my introduction to Parkour, and I hope you have a better perspective on it. Would you like to participate in these daredevil stunts?

National Newspaper Association

Best Feature Photo



Congratulations

Karen Krien

Third Place! Feature Photo by Karen Krien



HANGIN' ON TIGHT — Kobe Tice, St. Francis, was hanging on for dear life as he rode the mutton out of the gate on Wednesday night of the fair.

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