



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

Students in the spotlight at Quantum Arts 2014 Finale performance on Thursday, March 20

Just eight weeks ago, Rahma Mairane was a shy 12 year old who only demonstrated her acting skills at home in front of her parents. Tomorrow afternoon, she'll show off her newfound confidence onstage as part of a drama program taught by professional actors at Prairie Theatre Exchange. Being part of the Winnipeg School Division's Quantum Arts Program has helped the Grade 6 student at Sister MacNamara School come out of her shell, make new friends and discover her own talent.

"Acting is a very new experience, and also fun. I like that you get to express your feelings," says Mairane. "I was really nervous at first, but that changed after a few weeks."

More than 100 Grade 5 to 8 students like Mairane have spent the last eight weeks learning to dance, act, sculpt and more. The students from 42 schools in the Winnipeg School Division will take the stage on Thursday, March 20 to exhibit their newly acquired artistic abilities for their parents, educators and school trustees at the **Quantum Arts Program 2014 Finale**.

When: Thursday, March 20, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Muriel Richardson Auditorium at The Winnipeg Art Gallery, 300 Memorial Blvd.

Students will demonstrate their skills in dance, theatre and visual art at the Finale, after training with professionals at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, Prairie Theatre Exchange and The Winnipeg Art Gallery Studio.

Jordan Unger, 10, has gone from doodling cars and aliens and never having been to an art gallery to working on a clay sculpture that will be exhibited at the WAG. "It's a really neat way to learn more about how to do things with different raw materials. It's structured, but we learned that art can be whatever you want," says Unger, in Grade 5 at Glenelm School.

Unger says he's excited that his art, along with sculptures by the other Quantum students who studied at the WAG, will be part of the gallery's Through the Eyes of a Child exhibit beginning March 29. "I like that it's the artwork of kids, not just the artwork of other people that looks like the artwork of kids," he says.

Anthea Quinto, 11, was nervous at first about learning ballet, jazz and modern dance at the RWB, because she had never taken a dance class before. But she's now confident in her skills going into the final performance: "By the finale we'll have every single move perfect," says the Grade 5 student at Lord Nelson School.

(More)

“The students work so hard, and their pride shines through when they demonstrate their new talents,” says Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Schools for the Winnipeg School Division’s North District. “Without this great program and the generous donors to the Children’s Heritage Fund, many of these students might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in these types of arts classes.”

The Quantum Arts Program was developed based on the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, and is made possible through the sponsorship of the Children’s Heritage Fund.

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For further information and additional voices, see the attached fact sheet or contact:

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Quantum Arts Program – by the numbers

100 – number of Grade 5 to 8 students in the Winnipeg School Division that take part in the program every year

4 – hours per week the students study with the professional actors, dancers and artists (two hours every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during school hours)

8 – number of weeks the program lasts

3 – number of streams the students can enter: Classical Ballet, Jazz and Modern Dance at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School; Creative Drama at Prairie Theatre Exchange; and Art at the Winnipeg Art Gallery

1989-90 – School year in which the Quantum Arts Program was launched

Additional voices

Nicole Egeland, Vice-Principal, Recreational Division, Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet School

(204) 957-3493

“The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School looks forward to being a part of the Quantum Arts Program each year. Opening our classrooms to share the love of what we do is an experience not only for the students, but our staff too. The program is most rewarding when you can see the progress that the students have made during the finale after only eight short weeks.”

Michael Boss, Head of Winnipeg Art Gallery Studio

(204) 789-0519

“The Quantum Arts Program is a terrific opportunity to pull artistic students together from all over the city and engage them in complex projects under the guidance of professional artists. The students are pushed to the edges of their comfort zones by their instructors with the goal of creating something spectacular. The work becomes a centrepiece of our annual Through the Eyes of a Child children’s art exhibition, and it is a real treat for us to see what they are capable of producing. We take pride in the legacy of compelling and accomplished artworks that have been produced by our Quantum students as well as the educational benefits imparted through the exploration of the creative process the program affords.”

John B. Lowe, School & Community Programs Director, Prairie Theatre Exchange

(204) 925-5252

“The years in which Prairie Theatre Exchange School has participated in the Quantum Arts Program have been very rewarding. Each year, PTE instructors have an opportunity to work with students who are excited and ready for new experiences. Drama has the ability to reach and unlock creative potential in young people in a way that few things can. We have seen shy and quiet children and teens become full and enthusiastic participants in a group that started as strangers and finished as friends. Prairie Theatre Exchange is proud to be part of this fantastic program.”

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