

Canstar Community News - ONLINE EDITION

Students take quantum leap

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PHOTO BY JARED STORY

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Quantum Arts Program participants Annabele Kim, Quindora Taylor-Pirogov, Zoë Suffield and Katie Kent. [Photo Store](#)

More than 100 students from 42 schools across the Winnipeg School Division (WSD) can now say they're professionally trained dancers, actors or visual artists.

The division just wrapped up its annual Quantum Arts Program, which sees Grade 5 to 8 students studying with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB), Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE) or the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG).



Winnipeg School Division [Enlarge Image](#)
students perform the piece they created with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as part of the Quantum Arts Program. (PHOTO BY JORDAN THOMPSON) [Photo Store](#)

After training for eight weeks, two hours every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, the students unveiled their talents at a finale performance on Thurs., March 20 at the WAG.

"We're very happy that through the Children's Heritage Fund we're able to provide this wonderful opportunity for the students where they can explore, discover and develop their creativity and then showcase all of their talents for everyone to enjoy," said Fatima Mota, WSD's superintendent of north district schools.

John B. Lowe, theatre school and community programs director at PTE, said participating in the arts has helped enhance learning skills related to literacy, physical fitness and group work. He said one of the best parts about the Quantum Arts Program is seeing students from different schools collaborating creatively.

"At first they're just a bunch of strangers in the room, but now you can see they're working together and are friendly and some of them are talking about their scenes right now," said Lowe last week as kids rehearsed for the finale performance.

"We start with a room full of strangers and two months later it's a room full of colleagues."

The kids working with PTE performed a series of completely reworked classic stories dubbed Twisted Tales. For example, Sleeping Beauty was changed to Sleeping Ugly, Jack and the Beanstalk became Jack and the Zombie Apocalypse and Cinderella ended up at a different ball, switching the story to Discorella.

"I like it because we can show our skills and we can be silly. We don't have to be hidden like in school sometimes," said Katie Kent, a Grade 6 student at Tyndall Park Community School.

"It helps with our confidence too. If you're ever getting interviewed, like now, or maybe for a new job or high school or college, it just helps with your confidence."

Kent said she made a lot of friends through Quantum.

"In my school I didn't have a lot of friends, but here I have so many, because they're all the same as me," Kent said. "When I go back to school I can relate now. I can make new friends, because I have the confidence to make new friends."

Tyler Cadorna, a Grade 6 student at Tyndall Park, said he hadn't acted prior to the program, but his public speaking skills made for an easy transition to the stage.

"It's really been fun going here. I'm kind of sad it's ending. It's really been a great experience," Cadorna said.

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