



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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April 23, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

Inner City students take to the stage in first annual *Arts in the Heart of the City*

Jane Santa Ana was a shy student when she switched schools in Grade 4. But joining the choir at her new school helped change that.

Now in Grade 6, Santa Ana is getting ready to kick off a Mulvey School Choir performance of Journey's *Don't Stop Believin'* with a solo in front of hundreds of people, as part of the Winnipeg School Division's first annual arts showcase featuring its Inner City District students.

"Singing in the choir, doing the lead parts and performing in front of a bunch of people has helped me get more confident and be less shy," says Santa Ana, who also enjoys singing in the community with Mulvey's touring choir, such as at seniors' care homes. "It's fun performing for other people and putting a smile on their faces. It makes me feel happy."

Student performances of rhythmic drumming, pow wow dancing, fiddling, singing, short films and more will make up *Arts in the Heart of the City – a Festival of Student Learning in the Creative Arts*. More than 450 Grade 1 to 12 students from each Inner City District school will perform for their peers, teachers and community members to celebrate the District's rich tradition and priority of arts education.

The Winnipeg School Division invites media to attend this event.

When: Thursday, April 24, 2014 – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Calvary Temple, 440 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg

"Not all students can shine in a classroom, sitting at a desk. For some students, this is their opportunity to shine – to really explore different domains of learning, and to be part of something," said Jennifer Cox, an Inner City District Consultant with the Winnipeg School Division. "It's very exciting for them, and a really important learning opportunity. Arts enhance the curriculum, and bring depth and breadth to what the teachers are doing."

The event is a chance for students to come together, build community and share artistic achievements.

"We believe the arts awaken passion and imagination in our students, enhancing their ability to communicate. The arts transform curriculum, engage learners and influence student achievement in very powerful way," said Karin Seiler, Superintendent – Inner City District.

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