



November 2011

Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre

Gifted Facilitators:

Grade 9 & 10:
Ms. Carducci

Grade 9 & 11:
Ms. Romano

Grade 12:
Mrs. Hurley

On this page:

- Take Action Workshop
- Duke of Edinburgh Breakfast



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”
-Franklin D. Roosevelt



Take Action Workshop

On Tuesday, October 11th, Father John Redmond's grade nine Gifted/Enrichment students participated in their first Take Action Workshop. The workshop was a full day of fun, exciting activities that focused on developing communication skills and gaining new perspectives on the world around us.

We learned more about ourselves and each other by discussing our fears, experiences and opinions about the issues facing the Father John Redmond community and the outside world. I got to know a lot about my classmates that I would not have known otherwise, and I also gained insight into some of the issues that each of my peers are passionate about. The workshop helped the Gifted/Enrichment students grow as a community, so that we can feel safe with each other, understand each other, and of course, *take action* together.

In addition to gaining insight and new perspectives, we had a lot of fun. It brought great enjoyment playing fun games, like Moroccan soccer, and trying to grab clothespins from a blindfolded classmate using a sword. And of course, no great day goes without a little bit of dancing. The cookies and juice were also much appreciated.

By and large, the day was fantastic and many thanks go out to everyone who helped organize it, especially Cayse and Andrea, facilitators from Free the Children who lead the activities. I very much enjoyed the workshop, and I doubt there is anyone who would say otherwise. Any day when I can develop leadership skills with my friends and have a sword fight at the same time, is more than perfect for me. The grade nine Gifted/Enrichment students can't wait for the next one.

-Ryan Falconer, Grade 9

Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Breakfast

On Tuesday, November 8th, I had the pleasure of attending an elite and scrumptious Duke of Edinburgh's Award Breakfast, along with Mrs. Hurley and four other Redmond students. The breakfast recognized and celebrated the leadership amongst today's youth, as well as invited David McLaughlin to be our keynote speaker. David McLaughlin is the president of the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy, and is also an honorary Fellow of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society. During his speech, he offered his insights and experiences in a dynamic and thoughtful manner. It was inspired by the roles of the public policy, ideas, and citizens in finding sustainable pathways that preserve our environment while maintaining a strong economy. It provoked us to think about the environment of the future, and left us with a positive message of how we, as leaders, have the ability to clear the grounds for a cleaner world. This breakfast would not have been possible without the sponsorship of Cannex so thank you to them. Overall, I enjoyed the breakfast and am grateful that I had the opportunity to attend it.

-Theresa Hoang, Grade 11



Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre

On this page:

- World Press Photo Exhibition

World Press Photo Exhibition

On Friday, October 7th, the gifted students of FJR ventured to the Allen Lambert Galleria, to experience the 2011 World Press Photo Expo. The photos featured some of the most pressing issues of our world, including natural disasters. These photos were deeply intriguing. The winning "Photo of the Year" was taken by a South African photographer named Jodi Bieber, and it portrayed a young woman who had shamed her family, and seemed to have been beaten to disfigurement. This was only one of the many photos that made an impression on the students, and made reflect on how we, the fortunate, can help our world. The whole point of the expo was not to make us ashamed of the quality of life in other parts of the world, but to make us aware, and thankful that we live in such a great country. The expo. was definitely a great experience and one we won't be forgetting.

-Jennifer Boothby, Grade 9



FJR students at the World Press Photo



FJR students at the World Press Photo



FJR students at the World Press Photo

"Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language."

-Walt Disney

World Press Photo Exhibition

On Friday, October 7th, 2011, a number of students in the Gifted/Enrichment program at FJR went to the World Press Photo Exhibit at Brookfield Place in downtown Toronto. Once there, we saw compelling photos from photographers such as Ed Ou, who was the only Canadian to win honours this year. This was the 54th year of competition with 5 691 photographers and a little of 108 000 pictures. The World Press Photo of the year was won by Jodi Bieber, who photographed an 18 year old girl who had run away from her husband under Taliban command. This photo even ended up being featured in the Time Magazine for its stunning message. Overall, the trip was a thought provoking and extremely memorable experience.

-Maddy Bailey, Grade 9



FJR students at the World Press Photo



On this page:

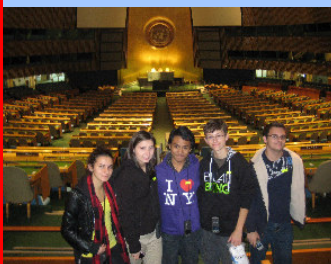
- Guest Speaker Series
- New York City



“Make crime pay.
Become a lawyer.”
-Will Rogers



On the steps of the Metropolitan
Museum of Art



United Nations General Assembly



Nintendo World in New York

“Experience, travel -
these are as education in
themselves.”
-Euripides

Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre

Guest Speaker Series

On Tuesday, November 8th, a beneficial opportunity was presented to Enrichment IQ students intrigued with the legal profession. During period one we gathered in the library to hear corporate lawyer, Mrs. Lisa Cinelli, speak about working in the field of law, and her personal experience if it. She was well informed, and was able to discuss with us the educational process of becoming a lawyer, and what is part of the profession. Mrs. Cinelli spoke in great detail about law school, articling, and the work she does. My fellow students and I asked a lot of questions about topics such as exams and work-life balance, all of which she had an answer to. The experience was informative and stimulating, and I enjoyed it immensely.

-Jessica Kennedy, Grade 9

New York City

From the early morning of Oct. 19, 2011, 16 Redmond students, along with two of the best teachers ever, were off to the Big Apple. A long bus ride had us arrive in wet weather to Manhattan. We headed into Times Square, and from there it was quite obvious that New York is the city never sleeps.

The trip had us experience everything New York City had to offer. We went from the Metropolitan to the Guggenheim Museums, where we looked at a wide variety of exhibits. (Egyptian artefacts and modern art). Then, going to Radio City Music Hall, we saw the stage that held some of the finest shows of entertainment. We visited the sets of shows such as *Dr. Oz* and *Saturday Night Live* at the NBC studio. The most exciting piece of entertainment we witnessed was a live performance of *Mary Poppins* on Broadway.

As we toured the memorial of Ground Zero and the United Nations exhibits, I was especially moved by the historical sites that marked the past decades, but also their influence over the future..

Aside from the sites that taught everything from history to culture to arts and media, what made the trip even more special was the fact that I was able to celebrate my 16th birthday walking through Central Park.

After attending a Mass at the breathtaking St. Patrick’s Cathedral, we concluded the evening gazing across the city, atop the Empire State Building. One thing that made the trip what it was, were the people that came along. From our bus driver Winston to our tour guide Louie, every person on the trip influenced me. This even included awkward and humorous conversations in the elevator and our singing of *Oh Canada* loud and proud on a boat full of strangers as we travelled to Ellis Island..

Every minute on this trip was special and valuable to the students. Ms. Carducci and Ms. Romano were the glue that created such a bond as they were like loving parents to us. Not only was this the best birthday I’ve ever had, but it was one of my most memorable experiences, because I was in one of the most beautiful places in the world with some of the best people in the world.



Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School and Regional Arts Centre

On this page:

- Guest Speaker Series
- New York City



Our night at the Empire State Building



On the bus to New York City



Mary Poppins on Broadway



On the ferry to Ellis Island (The Statue of Liberty)

Newsletter Designed & Compiled by Theresa Hoang (Gr.11)

Newsletter Edited by Dante Mottillo (Gr.11)

Guest Speaker Series

On Tuesday, November 8th, I was given the opportunity to hear a professional lawyer talk about her education and career in law. My aspiration is to become a lawyer, so this presentation was especially meaningful to me. Mrs. Lisa Cinelli, a corporate lawyer, was informative, helpful, and full of fantastic advice. Law school and its application process can be complex and frightening to many people. However, Mrs. Cinelli provided insight into the entire process and the style of the profession. I think that this particular guest speaker was all the worthwhile. The experience was illuminating, and I hope it will be the first of many chances to discover and learn about the cast post-secondary school opportunities.

-Jean-Pierre D'Angelo, Grade 9

New York City

Between Wednesday, October 19th and Sunday, October 23rd, 16 students from grades 9, 10, and 11 from Father John Redmond went on a tour of New York City.

To say the least, it was amazing. The entire trip was filled to the brim with amazing activities, tours, and destinations. We saw pretty much anything and everything there is to see in New York City in the span of just five days. We went shopping on 5th Avenue, toured the United Nations building, stood atop the Empire State Building, and so much more.

For anyone who loves New York, or has never been and wants to go, this trip is a must. It is the essential guide to knowing New York. We had a fantastic tour guide from Prometour, and a wonderful driver from Pacific Western. We even stayed in the Sohotel, which was right in the middle of the action in Little Italy. It was truly an amazing trip!

Not only that, but it was an incredible bonding experience. I became very close to people who would have otherwise been just mere faces in the hallways. When you spend five days with people, exploring one of the most popular cities in the world, you get to know them quite well. These are the exact kinds of relationships you want to build with your fellow Gifted and AP students.

I would like to thank Ms. Romano and Ms. Carducci for organizing this trip and putting up with us for five days, our tour guide Louie, our bus driver Winston, and everyone else who helped out this fantastic trip together. This trip would not have been possible without the amazing parents who helped pay for it.

If you are considering going on this trip, or a similar one next year, I give recommendations for it. It was worth every penny.

-Ryan Falconer, Grade 9