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## Tour for Humanity visits Fergus school

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It is like the magic school bus of history class. The Tour For Humanity bus recently visited the children of St. Joseph Catholic School, Fergus.

This state-of-the-art mobile museum has taught children, educators, community leaders and front-line professionals about diversity, democracy, Canadian history, civil rights and responsibilities.

From the outside, the bus looks like something a rock star could travel in, however the inside is decorated with inspirational quotes from the presentations subjects and equipped with a full wall of 12 55-inch presentation screens, surround sound, theatre-like seating and wheelchair accessibility. The multi-media documentary style presentation is designed to hold the attention of its modern living and technology-obsessed audiences.

The custom made bus that visited the Fergus school is one year old, Daniella Lurion Education Associate with Tour for Humanity added the bus is designed to travel and go anywhere.

Funded by Trillium, this program has reached over 13,000 students in schools and communities across Ontario, as well as to many other children at camps, community centers, students in universities and even police officers. Grade 6 and 7 students of St. Joseph Catholic School saw one the presentations while the grade 8 students saw the three-part documentary as well as the presentation.

St. Joseph Catholic School principal, Lowell Butts, gives credit to popular books and movies like 'The Book Thief' for educating youth about the world wars.

"The kids know that racism and hate still exists in Canada and this program showed them real examples of hate crimes in Canada," Butts said.

The St. Joseph children participated in the presentation and offered their thoughts on topics such as bullying online, and why it's important to be educated about Canada's history.

One student said it is easy to bully on the Internet because you are 'hiding behind a screen'. Another student added 'it is so easy because it only takes one click'.



Photo by Kelsey Dunbar

Sweet Ride - the Tour for Humanity Bus visited the students of St. Joseph Catholic School on November 7 in Fergus. Pictured here is Michael Burt's grade eight class after they experienced the presentation inside.