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Students on the Tour for Humanity bus, a mobile classroom that aims to eradicate hate.-Photo Contributed

Tour for Humanity Mobile Bus Teaches Tolerance and History

The Tour for Humanity, created by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, uses state-of-the-art technology to teach about intolerance and hate. And you don't have to go to it—the Tour for Humanity will come to you.

The 30-seat, wheelchair accessible mobile classroom has been traveling around southern Ontario, Canada promoting human rights and justice.

According to the Tour for Humanity website, the bus is a “mobile human rights education center to teach students, educators, community leaders, and front-line

professionals about topics of diversity, democracy, and Canadian civic rights and responsibilities.”

The Tour for Humanity stopped at Henry Hudson Senior Public School in Toronto on Monday, January 19 where groups of 30 students took turns listening to Daniella Lurion, education associate, reports InsideToronto.

Lurion’s presentation consisted of three parts including discussions about the Holocaust, other genocides like the American genocide, Khmer Rouge and Rwanda, and a talk about heroes like Martin Luther King Jr. and Helen Keller.

She ends by talking about changes students can make. “It’s to help inspire kids,” Lurion told InsideToronto. “And to teach them that yes, our past isn’t perfect, but we can work together to make the future better.”

Tour for Humanity can cater to older or younger students. For older students, the tour has “The Canadian Experience,” which explores Canadian history and current events including slavery, residential schools, immigration policies, and the internment of Japanese Canadians. This discussion will also talk about Internet and cyber-bullying, and current hate crime statistics. For younger students, the tour offers “The Happy Workshop,” which focuses on respect for people who are different and people with disabilities. The younger students will gain an understanding of bullying, prejudice, racism, and anti-Semitism. The students will also leave with an understanding of what they can do to effect change of intolerant attitudes.

The bus has visited about 150 schools and reached more than 50,000 students, according to MetroNews.

“The whole focus is about improving the world and fighting against racism, hate, intolerance and anti-Semitism,” Avi Benlolo, president and CEO of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, told MetroNews.

Information on booking the Tour for Humanity can be found on the website.