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Tour for Humanity transforms Nobleton students, pushes attitudes of change

Tour for Humanity a learning experience for Nobleton school students



Simon Wiesenthal Tour for Humanity

Steve Somerville/Metroland

Grade 8 students from St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Nobleton listen to and view a large screen presentation on the Holocaust, part of the Tour for Humanity at the school Nov 30. The screen and viewing area are inside a large bus. Daniella Lurion is the Education Associate for the tour from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies. The presentation also included topics such as bullying, cyber-bullying, racism, anti-religious sentiments and more.

King Connection

By [Tim Kelly](#)

Looks of astonishment gripped Nobleton Grade 8 students as scenes from the Holocaust filled the screen.

St. Mary Catholic Elementary School played host to the Tour for Humanity bus last week, a travelling human rights exhibit sponsored in part by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Students and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The tour bus travels around Ontario to schools and other institutions outside Toronto educating young people about the horrors of the Holocaust when the Nazis under Adolf Hitler systematically slaughtered six million Jews in Labour Camps during the Second World War.

But it does more than that.



It also talks about Canada's own problems with racism, especially the interment of Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War and the issues of Indigenous Residential Schools that existed for well over a century and has led to the current federal Truth and Reconciliation of Canada, an attempt to discover more about what happened to Canada's Indigenous people.

Educator Daniella Lurion, using a video, in addition to the Holocaust historical film, highlighted past and present heroes like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malala Yasoufzi, the Afghanistan teenage girl shot a few years ago for

refusing to back down when the Taliban did not want her to attend school.

In addition to horror, Lurion wanted to show the students they "can make a difference too," she said.

Stefano Lucente, 13, said he found the presentation, "very educational and inspiring." He said it has encouraged him to do something "pretty awesome."

He's concerned something like the Holocaust could happen against in the future.

To prevent a Holocaust from recurring, "we need to reduce racism and discrimination," he said.

For Isabella Perkovic, 14, it was an eyeopener.

"I could never imagine being there (Holocaust) at the time. We need to be more kind to one another and accept people for who they are."

And Kayla Mendolia, 13, said she would definitely, "love to change things. I want people to see that everyone is human and we're all made of the same flesh, whatever our colour or sexual orientation, I think we're all the same."

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