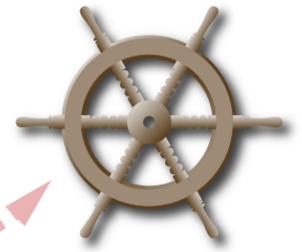




Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Honouring public education and our veterans

by Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Schools and campuses across the province celebrated Remembrance Day in honour of those who came before and those today who serve in the military to ensure our freedom. The many tweets, Facebook posts from ceremonies held in gyms, cafeterias and auditoriums showcased overwhelming support and reverence for our retired veterans and local military personnel.

It is not difficult to understand why schools take the lead in Remembrance Day celebrations. Public schools represent democracy and freedom for all. No one is denied the opportunity to attend public school, no matter

two NSTU members, Jane Berrigan and Alan Muir, along with their Grade 10, 11 and 12 students decided to organize a memorial celebration for a fallen hero, Corporal Paul Davis. Corporal Davis was a former student at BJSHS. He

later joined Canada's military and fought for the rights and freedoms of our country and those of individuals in other countries.

On a mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Davis met his untimely death on March 2, 2006. The students and staff of BJSHS wanted to ensure that their celebrations included the recognition of a former student who

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

—Mandela



Moment of silence to honour Corporal Paul Davis.

gave thanks to the students and staff in honouring his son. Davis spoke of his appreciation of having such a wonderful welcoming space built in honour of his son. “In my mind, Paul is still the same age they are. So when they come forward it tells me Paul's not forgotten, they're keeping his memory alive,” he said.

Living close to the school, Davis discussed the joy he felt in seeing the progression of this memorial, the hard work of staff and students and the opportunity to witness first hand the appreciation his community had for his son.

Not only was the school celebrating its 100th anniversary, but the regiment Paul Davis served in is also celebrating its

100th anniversary so it was very fitting to erect and unveil the monument in Davis' honour.

It is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The pictures captured that day—the plane flying over head at the opening, the band and accompanying veterans, the Grade 12 graduating class, along with the O2 students responsible for this day and moment of silence for a fallen hero—brought tears to many. As a Canadian citizen I was reminded of just how great our country is. As a teacher and mother I continue to be heartened by the incredible spirit and minds of our children, youth and members. “O'Canada, we stand on guard for thee.”



Students, staff and community members join together to celebrate a fallen hero.

gender, race, culture or socio economic background. This right of freedom is not afforded many others who live in war torn and developing countries. Our men and women who go abroad as Canada's military do so to sustain our rights and freedoms and support others in gaining the same.

Early this fall, I had the opportunity to attend Bridgewater Junior Senior High School's (BJSHS) 100 Years of Public Education celebrations. To celebrate,

gave his life so that others could live free.

On a beautiful sunny October day, 1,000 people gathered behind the school where students had built a memorial park inclusive of a gazebo, walking path and memorial plaque. Students and staff from Grades Primary through 12, honoured guests, Corporal Paul Davis' former division, and local and provincial military and police personnel gathered to celebrate their alumnus. Special guest, Corporal Paul Davis' father Jim Davis



Daphne Egilsson, principal of BJSHS brings greetings on behalf of the students and staff.