

Bailey leaps to OFSAA gold

JAMES CLARK
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KDSS student Jenna Bailey can attest to how significant one centimetre is.

Bailey, a Grade 9 student, won gold in the OFSAA championship long jump event with a jump of 5.26 metres, just one centimetre further than the second place finisher.

"I don't even know what the difference was," Bailey said, of her first-place jump, which was 24 centimetres better than her previous best set at the OFSAA regionals.

"I just got mad and I jumped."
Bailey made the jump in her final attempt at the OFSAA championship, held June 1-3 at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke. Bailey sat in fourth place in the Midget girls category before making the jump, which came in the pouring rain.

"It kind of psyches you out because you are like, what if I slip?" she said.

Bailey faced even more pressure to do well in the long jump because she was ranked first in the event, which featured a strong field from all across the province.

"It was a little intimidating, but everyone was really nice," she said.

Bailey did have some moral support at the event, despite being the only KDSS athlete to qualify for the championships. Her parents Dawn and Gerry made the trip to the meet with KDSS track coach Tanya Byers and Bailey's boyfriend.

"I had all the support I needed. I had my family, my coach and my boyfriend," Bailey said.

I just got mad and I jumped.

Jenna Bailey on how she won the long jump event at OFSAA, the provincial high school track and field championships.

Byers said the Grade 9 student did well at the event because she is a naturally talented athlete.

"Technically she has some areas to work on, but she just has such a raw talent," Byers said, adding Bailey handled the pressure well.

"I don't think she realized how big of an event it was," Byers said. "I was so nervous for her, but I was really confident she could pull off a medal."

A KDSS student hasn't won gold at the meet since Laura Evans won her last gold medal in the shotput event about five years ago.

Bailey said she was hungry for a medal after competing in the 100-metre final the day before.

She made it to the 100m final after placing fifth in the preliminary heats with a time of 12.89 seconds. Bailey, running in the sixth lane, managed to pull of a sixth place finish in the event with a time of 13.11 seconds.

Bailey said it dawned on her how important the event was when former world record holder and Olympic champion Donovan Bailey spoke just seconds before her race.

"Everyone looked at me when they heard my name, just because it is the same as his," Bailey said.

Bailey's next meet will be the District 'C' Legion meet, which will see athletes from as far away as Guelph compete at the Davidson Centre on June 17.

Placing well in the event could give Bailey the opportunity to compete nationally later in the summer.

Bailey said her performance at the OFSAA championships has made her more determined to train harder and possibly work towards getting a scholarship.



James Clark photo

Jenna Bailey shows off the OFSAA gold medal she won in the long jump and the sixth place ribbon she won in the 100 metre dash.

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Teachers have life-changing experience in far north

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Spending a week in Ontario's far north has been a life-changing experience for two local teachers.

Daniel Pitre, a teacher at St. Anthony's Separate School, along with his wife Samantha, spent March 18 to 24 in the community of Wunnumin Lake, 700 km north of Thunder Bay.

"It was a real eye-opener," Pitre said. "It was life changing in a sense that we were in a part of Canada that not many people get to experience."

Wunnumin Lake has a population of about 550 people, almost 65 per cent of whom are under the age of 25.

The Pitres, along with Bev Fry and Megan Biggs, Bruce Power community relations employees, travelled to Wunnumin Lake to promote literacy and work with the teachers and students at Lydia Lois Beardy Memorial School.

Pitre said after they arrived and got settled in, they met the school staff. The next day, they began work by teaching staff different literacy techniques that local teachers have been working with for the last five years. After, the Pitres went to the classrooms for a "model lesson."

"We enhanced the reading components with the teachers and teacher assistants, then did a lesson with the students to show them how it works," said Pitre.

Pitre said on April 2, students are

"So they're about two or three years behind us," Pitre said.

Bruce Power, which paid for the four flights to Wunnumin Lake, has been working in conjunction with Ontario's Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman, to promote literacy in First Nations communities. Bartleman is from the Rama reserve and is of mixed heritage.

Pitre said they hope to have the teachers from Lydia Lois Beardy Memorial School come to Kincardine and experience the school system this fall.

Bruce Power will sponsor summer literacy camps for the children of Wunnumin Lake.

"For a recreational experience, Pitre said he was taken out ice fishing twice.

"I love ice fishing to begin with, but to do it up there was awesome, a really cool experience," he said.

He said everything is more expensive because the only way to get there is by plane. Milk is about \$15 a bag, which is about three times as much as it is here.

For Pitre, the best part, aside from ice fishing, was seeing the teachers happy to have the new materials to teach with.

"I think the best part was when one teacher said he was excited about teaching again," Pitre said. "The stu-



Daniel Pitre, a Grade 5 teacher at St. Anthony's Separate School in Kincardine, reads to the Grade 4 class at Lydia Lois Beardy Memorial School, a week in March to help the teachers develop new literacy strategies. Inset, literacy teacher Samantha Pitre of Mother Theresa School in Walkerton,