

St. Francis of Assisi students Ryan Waddick (left) and Brianna Campbell, joined with Myles Gilson, as the Grade 6 students took part in the Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC) Seniors and Social Media: Connecting Generations through Technology program, where the students were teamed with seniors, interviewed them, and created a digital keepsake of their lives.

Photo by Ted Brown



## Generations connect through technology

Local seniors were brought together with students from St. Francis of Assisi School at the Georgetown District Seniors Centre to celebrate the end of phase one of the Seniors & Social Media: Connecting Generations Through Technology project.

The program, presented as part of the Halton Industry Education Council's (HIEC) ongoing commitment to intergenerational mentorship, and offered in partnership with Apple Canada, saw students create video presentations using Apple's iLife software suite.

Their goal was to tell the life stories of local North Halton seniors.

"I think it is a really good project to connect the seniors with younger children, so we get to learn more about how they lived when they were young," said one student participant. "Making the video was really fun, we got to use Apple computers and try different programs. I learnt a lot."

The seniors and students first met in October at the Georgetown Seniors Centre. After conducting their interview and taking detailed notes, students spent a month in their classroom working with MacBook computers and iMovie software provided by Apple Canada. Their goal was to capture the life of a local senior in a creative, cinematic way. The students then presented their creations to their senior partners in December.

"I just thought it was great!" said Iris, a senior participant. "And the presentation, the detail they remembered and wrote down—the only thing is that they know how old we are now! But it was a lovely experience and we would love to participate again."

Connecting Generations Through Technology, supported by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Initiative, works as an excellent opportunity for students to connect with local seniors, while learning about video production and computer technology.

With the continued partnership between HIEC and Apple Canada, the program will begin its second phase in the winter/spring with students and seniors from Acton. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring this program contact HIEC, 905-634-2575 or [www.hiec.on.ca](http://www.hiec.on.ca)



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