

Net result: CBC's Rick Mercer coming to Stewarttown

After their fundraising campaign generated more than \$27,000 to help prevent malaria deaths in Africa, Stewarttown Public School's students and staff are ready for a visit from a well-known CBC personality after the March break.

It was announced on Tuesday night's airing of the Rick Mercer Report that the school won the elementary division of the friendly nationwide Spread the Net Student Challenge by raising enough funds to buy 2,710 bed nets (at \$10 each) to protect the lives of African families. Stewarttown PS's student parliament and five staff members started the initiative last May and held several fundraisers over the past few months, including a school dance, after school dodge ball tournaments, Selfies with Santa, Pancake Day, Family Skate Day and the popular Mummify Your Teacher Day.

One of the organizers, teacher Karla McEachern, said the school is thrilled to play host to Mercer, tentatively set for Monday, March 19, and appear in an upcoming episode.

"We are in the midst of hanging more than 2,700 dead mosquitoes around the school property to represent each of the bed nets that we've purchased," McEachern laughed.

Co-founded by Mercer and philanthropist Belinda Stronach in 2006, it's estimated that Spread the Net has helped protect the lives of more than 41 million people. Malaria is still the leading cause of death of children under five in Africa, with approximately 438,000 fatalities each year.



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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