

# Arts & Entertainment



## Sam Sherratt students' thoughtful artwork heading for World Peace Forum in Vancouver

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
The Champion

Their art projects couldn't have been more different. Nicole Sellors, 11, had painted her fantasy world — the world she dreamed of living in — with bright colours depicting a magnificent scene filled with mountains, palm trees, a waterfall and a clear blue sky.

"It's what the world would be like if I could make the world," Nicole said, adding a recent trip to Mexico influenced her artwork.

Claire Thornton's painting was darker in both colour and subject. Hers was a taste of reality, showing the world through her eyes. With grey and black paint, Claire had painstakingly painted a set of symmetrical smoke stacks, all spewing ugly, dirty smoke.

"I went to Toronto and saw a lot of smoke stacks and smoke coming out," explained Claire, 10, as she held up her painting. "Air pollution can kill many animals and make people very sick."

Both students are in Scott Pattinson's grade 5 art class at Sam Sherratt Public School. Their paintings, along with those of the rest of the class, are destined for more than their fridge doors. They'll be on display at a student gallery in Vancouver, BC — along with art from kids around the world — at the World Peace Forum next year.

The assignment left room for the students' interpretation. They were asked to convey their visions of the world they live in or the world they'd like to live in.

"They've been working on this for a while," Mr. Pattinson said, explaining the opportunity for the project arose through contacts he has at the University of Victoria, where he attends each summer to work toward his master's degree in art education.

Having a chance to contribute to the student gallery is nothing to take lightly, he said. Only a few schools in Canada have been invited to participate.

"It's a fantastic motivator when they know



Grade 5 students Lindsay Chudleigh and Dylan Burkholder show some of the artwork depicting the message of peace.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

their artwork will be displayed (at the conference)," Mr. Pattinson said, adding, "I'm really excited about the positive atmosphere it created."

The focus of the project wasn't as much on the students' actual art skills as it was on their ideas, he said.

After they finished their paintings, the students had a chance to see what other kids from other countries had submitted via the Internet.

Mr. Pattinson said it was a real eye opener for some of his students. It helped them see just how

different our world is from that of students in, say, Afghanistan or Iraq, where a child's painting is more apt to portray brutality.

"Their work was really different from what we did in class," he said. "A lot of it had graphic images."

He said the project caused students to reflect on how much they have to be thankful for in Milton and Canada as a whole.

"As a teacher, I'd sometimes say that's not appropriate," he said, referring to students looking at graphic artwork.

"But in a lot of places, that's their daily reality."

The students' enthusiasm toward the project was obvious. Claire said she thought it was "really cool" that their art was going to be displayed alongside other kids' art from all over the world.

Nicole echoed her sentiment: "I feel really happy about having the chance to show our art to different countries."

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