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Sandy gives dancers 'wild, wild ride' on sea

Competitors battle 11-metre waves

BY JIM MASON
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Students at a Stouffville dance school are back at home from a wild Caribbean adventure, thanks to Hurricane Sandy.

Lisa Breck, owner and teacher at The Breck School of Highland Dance, took six students to the Bahamas to perform and compete on The Majesty of the Seas cruise ship last weekend.

"It was a wild, wild ride," she said.

They boarded Friday and exited Monday in Florida.

Breck dancer Alison Firth placed second in the North American scholarships competition on-board, battling other dancers — and the hurricane.

"This is huge achievement in the world of highland dancing, for Alison and (the) school," Ms Breck said. "Not only has Alison trained and worked hard her whole life in dance, she had to perform on a cruise ship rocking in the wake of hurricane Sandy in swells up to 11 metres."

The adventure wasn't over

See **DANCERS**, page 15.

'TIS THE SEASON



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Carlo Lee and his sons Caleb, 5 (left) and Dylan, 3, try to stay dry during the Community Safety Village Halloween event Saturday at Bruce's Mill.

Teachers set to ramp up job action

BY KIM ZARZOUR
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Hurricane Sandy may have left town, but labour relations among York Region teachers remain stormy.

York public elementary teachers' union is recruiting whistleblowers to police their looming strike action, while their Catholic

counterparts are expressing anger of their own over the deal hashed out by their union leaders.

Public elementary teachers are expected to be in a legal strike position in about two weeks and in preparation, their union has made a call-out, seeking members who want to be part of a committee that would act as a "grand jury" when members are alleged to have failed

to follow job action protocol.

Catholic teachers in York, meanwhile, have voiced their displeasure in a recent poll conducted by the local unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association asking their opinion on the deal agreed to by their provincial executive.

York Region's separate school teachers are one of two districts in

Ontario to have polled members and revealed overwhelming disapproval for the so-called Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

York Catholic teachers and the school board were also one of the first two districts in the province to agree to the MOU, which later set the model for all Ontario teachers

See **TEACHERS**, page 16.

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