



# THE DISTRICT 16 REPORT

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## Dutch Partnership with D16

By: Katie McTiernan

Mr. Rick Hayward and Mr. Joey Savoy recently returned from an educational session in the Netherlands. Representing School District 16, Savoy and Hayward exchanged information on their education systems with Dutch correspondents.



During an interview, Mr. Savoy said, "The Dutch children were very respectful, and well behaved. You could leave them writing notes in a class unsuper-

vised for an hour, come back and they wouldn't have moved an inch."

Students will become more aware of each other's cultures through this partnership. Hayward and Savoy learned there's more to Holland than tulips, wooden shoes and windmills. They are also noted for their compassionate personalities and carefree life styles. Hayward and Savoy were treated with great hospitality and kindness during the trip. They were welcomed with raw heron dipped in an onion mixture (a common snack in the Netherlands equivalent to our potato chips and dip).



Two highlights from their trip was when they bicycled across



the German border, and being able to visit Anne Frank's house. When they returned to Canada, and told some students about their trip to Anne Frank's house, they realized that some had never even heard of her. A week later, Hayward said that the kids were all buzzing after reading her diary and were very touched by it.

The whole point of Hayward and Savoy's trip was to assist the

Dutch in gaining knowledge about Canadian technology in the school systems. "We have already started to do things that they are trying out...they're fascinated with our technologies. We are recognized when we go there and it really makes us feel proud to be from Canada... overall, the



trip was amazing!" says Hayward.

Hopefully this partnership is long and prosperous, and that our friends from the Netherlands will soon come visit us!■

## Rock the Boat

By: Eric Bowes

This Wednesday, students from the James M. Hill student council will be attending a special meeting in Miramichi. The New Brunswick Advisory Council on Youth will be hosting "Rock the Boat: Here Today, Here to Stay," which will provide our youth a chance to voice their opinions.

Pat Losier, a past participant with the group, said: "I think the youth in our province have a lot to say, and when given the chance to say what they want to, their opinions and ideas can be very beneficial to society. It's our chance to have a say, and it's really a

great thing to get involved in."

"Rock the Boat" is a NB program which encouraging youth to stand up, take action, and become involved in their community. Its main objective is to make our communities better places to live, learn, and play, and to help develop important leadership skills that will be essential to our province in the future.

The council began traveling from community to community in early February, and will continue to do so, until the end of this month. At the meetings, topics such as the city's needs, assets, problems, and ongoing projects or events that could benefit other communities around New Brunswick are topics of

discussion.

Also, students attending will be asked to speak about any extraordinary contributions that Miramichi youth are making to help their community. The government representatives attending the "Rock the Boat" workshop will then bring any ideas and suggestions back to the legislature, where some of these ideas will then be utilized to improve life in our province.

All at James M. Hill have plenty of faith in our students, and we are both very excited and proud to say that we care about our community.■

## MVHS Prepares for Rugbyfest 2008

By: Brooke Casey

This past month, Miramichi Valley and James M. Hill girls and boys rugby teams have been in intense preparation for the annual Rothesay Netherwood School Rugbyfest. The tournament will run from April 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> this year, and is expected to be one of the biggest to date.

Forty teams have registered, including high schools from all over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario. The teams are divided into six different divisions, three girls, and three boys. Throughout the weekend, each team plays three games against other teams in their division. On the last day of the

tournament, the top two teams in each division face off for first place in their division. The first place teams in each division then battle it out for top place overall.

At Miramichi Valley, both girls and boys teams have been organizing fundraisers in



order to pay for their transportation, registration and accommodation, as well as practicing every week day for a chance at the gold. In an interview with Miramichi Valley girls captain, Kristy Clancy, she remarked, "we've been working hard trying to raise the money needed to get to Rothesay, and it has paid off. We've almost reached our goal and we're all excited to be going." So far, the two teams at Miramichi Valley have had bottle drives, 50/50 draws and bake sales to support this upcoming tournament.

Rugbyfest is the biggest rugby tournament held in New Brunswick and the outlook for our Miramichi teams looks positive. Good luck to everyone and hope you bring home the gold!■



## Drama Puts ON Chicago

By: Peter Gillis

The MVHS Drama Club, led by Mr. Jason Howe will be soon performing the popular musical, *Chicago* for the public. Mr. Howe wanted to direct this play for quite a while but had a hard time getting it rolling. Finally, everything is a "go" and all at MVHS are tingling with anticipation. It is a large production and a real accomplishment for our school's drama club.

Obtaining the rights to produce *Chicago* was a lengthy process. After a lot of communication across the border, MVHS finally got the go ahead and began work on their production. Other than this issue, according to Mr. Howe, "There's nothing really to complain about. We have a lot of new kids from grade 9 and 10 who are still learning the ropes but everything is coming along really

well."

When asked about ticket sales, Mr. Howe said he didn't really know what to expect because there are some years when the turnout is good and some when it's kind of slow. There should be a good turnout if the community and school all support this very worthwhile, entertaining school project.

*Chicago* is expected to follow the movie quite closely so, if you enjoyed the movie or didn't get a chance to see it, come out and experience the MVHS version. The main characters are: Velma Kelley played by Brittany Sutherland; Roxie Hart played by Nicole Pozer; and, Billy Flynn played by Mike McEachern. The play starts on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and will run for a short time only so be sure to get a ticket and enjoy a night out!■



Where to park your bicycle when you go to work in Holland!

## Remembrance Day Award Winners at JMH

By: Mark Loggie

"A Hero is not born; a hero is made, and then rises to the occasion."

This is a hard-hitting sentence from Andrew Drisdelle's award-winning Remembrance Day essay. It was submitted to the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Literary Contest along with many others and won first place locally.

Several other students who submitted essays or poetry received certificates of recognition from Legion President, Mrs. Joan Cripps who gave a short, but heartfelt speech on how great it was to see young people still

taking an interest in the sacrifice made by war veterans.

The topics of the essays and poems were on the theme of remembrance and varied from displays of gratitude and admiration, to observant criticisms of modern warfare, to Canada's role in peacekeeping around the world. Each had a different voice, showing that a genuine concern and awareness of world conflict is still prevalent among students today.

Andrew's essay dealt with the theme of heroes— those with us and not with us today. In it, he quoted Christopher Reeves who once said: "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."■

## Homeroom Challenge

By: Andrew Drisdelle

Recently at James M. Hill each homeroom was to select their top six competitors to take part in an epic battle deciding which homeroom was the best. The Homeroom Challenge, as it is called, is to take place from Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>. The six elite competitors from each homeroom are to participate in an obstacle course that will test every aspect of the competitor's mind, body, and overall strength.

On the first day of competition the grade nines will scrimmage it out amongst themselves with the winner advancing to the finals on Friday. The following day, the grade tens will have a go at it. Finally, on Friday the winning team from each grade will battle it until there is only one team left standing.

The purpose of the homeroom challenge is to inspire school spirit at James M. Hill. The organizers of this event are Eric Bowes and Katie McTiernan, who were both elected to head Tommie Spirit. Katie said, "The purpose of this event is to build school spirit and to encourage friendly competition." The competition will be fierce, as each homeroom brings forth their most competitive six. (Personally, I'm rooting for Mr. Martin's homeroom team, since that's my homeroom class!)

The prize for the winning team will be a large sum of Juicy Fruit gum. Also, a trophy is being put into circulation with the winning homeroom class engraved on it from year to year. According to Eric Bowes, this prize is enough to ensure that every team will put their best foot forward.■

## BLMS Battle of the Classes Soon to End

By: Michael Allain

The end of the school year is around the corner, which also means that the Bonar Law Battle of the Classes competition is quickly coming to an end for the 2007-2008 year. It's been a competitive year so far which has seen class rankings change al-

most weekly. The current standings are: First: 10B; Second: 9H; Third: 11W and Fourth Place: 11M.

This year, Battle of the Classes events have included the annual Turkey Bowl Parade, a Cup Stacking competition, rock paper scissors, and much more. They've either been competitions, or participation events, such as hat day

and school spirit or, orange and black day.

There has been a Battle of the Classes event almost every week during lunchtime somewhere in the school. This Student Council activity brings classmates and different homerooms from all grades together in friendly competition.

Near the end of the school year, whichever class wins the Battle of the Classes gets to take a class trip to Magic Mountain. The students get to enjoy a day of fun and celebration, while all the other classes are still in school. Which homeroom will win it this year and which ones will sit in their classrooms wishing they had won? We'll soon find out!■