

Upcoming Events

June 5 – [World Environment Day](#)

June 5-11 – [Canadian Environment Week](#)

June 6 – [Aspen Foundation AGM](#)

June 8-14 – [Rivers to Oceans Week](#)

June 12 – [World Day Against Child Labour](#)

June 14 – [World Blood Donor Day](#)

June 20 – [World Refugee Day](#)

June 21 – [National Aboriginal Day](#)

July 1 – [Canada Day](#) (video)

July 1 – [International Day of Cooperatives](#)

July 30 – [International Day of Friendship](#)

August 9 – [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

August 12 – [International Youth Day](#)

August 19 – [International Humanitarian Day](#)

August 23 – [International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition](#)

September 4 – [Labour Day](#)

September 5 – [International Day of Charity](#)

September 8 – [International Literacy Day](#)

September 15 – [International Day of Democracy](#)

September 21 – [International Day of Peace](#)

September 30 – [Orange Shirt Day](#)

Drumming for Social Justice and Diversity at Crescent Valley School

By Rhonda Degerstedt

Every week, grades 4 - 6 students at Crescent Valley School in Hinton have been coming together to create a drum circle to talk about social issues. They call themselves *Dyna-Mix: Drumming for Social Justice and Diversity* (pronounced dynamics).

The group has tackled issues including: fair play and inclusion on our playground, treatment of women around the world, challenges of children (especially girls) in attending school, inclusion of all people, issues facing our newest Canadians (like the Syrian families in our community) and quality of life for seniors.

In addition to developing our drum skills, there has been the emergence of listening skills and a deepened attitude of respect. According to one of our drummers, **“the hardest thing is working with people you know you do not work well with to come up with a beautiful piece of music.”** Students contribute their own genius to our drumming. The group has achieved many moments of success as well as some very trying situations where ideas and personalities don't readily mix, but always leading to opportunities to develop cooperative and diplomatic skills. We have realized that democracy takes a long time.

To date, Dyna-Mix have mastered one performance piece: an African welcoming song which encourages trust. From a teacher's perspective, I am most proud to see the development of strong leadership skills. Students lead many of the drumming games and determine what we should talk about or what we might want to work on together in the circle. I am thrilled to see such young people so empowered and so committed.

There was no fixed mandate when the group was formed and what became apparent very early is that our school is a pretty cool place to be with no great pressing social issues. We also quickly realized that music has a great power to unite and can bring a wide variety of unlikely people together. The students have developed a strong cohesive spirit and a willingness to step out of their own comfort zones. One student remarked, **“I have learned to come together as a group and express myself through drumming.”**

Dyna-Mix have been asked to lead two sessions at a Kid Conference being hosted by another elementary school. In addition, we will visit the seniors home to share the gift of music with the residents. We have also been invited to participate in the Third Annual Benefit Concert hosted by our school handbell group. The students are especially excited to host a Lunch Hour Drum Circle on our school grounds for the seniors from the activity centre neighbouring our school. Our drummers will proudly wear their self-designed t-shirts as they 'go on tour' and share their core belief that, **“drumming can open people's hearts.”**

Crescent Valley School was the recipient of a 2016-2017 AFLE Social Justice Learning Grant.



Aspen Foundation for Labour Education

Resource Corner

SUNIA

The Seminar on United Nations and International Affairs (SUNIA) is a unique opportunity for high school students to actively engage with social and political issues. With active UN officers who lead seminars and participate with students during a week of discussion groups, global development simulations, hikes, and campfires, culminating with a Model UN Security Council. Scholarships and bursaries available.

August 13-18 or August 20-25 Register at: www.sunia.ca

AFLE 16th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 6th, 2017

17:00 - 19:00

Alberta Union of Provincial Employees Offices

10451 170 St. Edmonton

RSVP to afle@telus.net

With a special presentation by 2016-2017 Social Justice Learning Grant recipients from Strathcona High School

Apply Now! Social Justice Learning Grants

The Aspen Foundation works to help educate young Albertans by developing citizens that are engaged with issues that affect their communities, country and world. Teachers and students can apply for a grant of up to \$1500. Please visit our [website](#) for further information and the application form or check the latest ATA school mail out. The deadline is October 3, 2017.

Half of the grant will be paid when the application is approved. The balance is paid on completion of the project, and the recipient provides an accounting and evaluation report.

Aspen Foundation Feedback and Participation

We value your comments, please send them to us. If you would like to write an article regarding social justice work in the classroom, please contact Gary Hansen at afle@telus.net

Welcome! Thank You!

AFLE would like to welcome Catie Hickman as our new Fundraising, Communications, and Outreach Assistant. AFLE would like to thank Aleah Loney for her dedicated work as over the past year and wish her all the best in her future endeavours in British Columbia.

We believe that it is important that schools teach about building new, fairer, kinder, and more just workplaces and communities. Friends like you make our work possible.

Your support is key to offering Social Justice and Labour Education in schools

Aspen Foundation is a registered charity and provides **income tax receipts** to individual donors.

[Click here to support our work!](#)

Resources and Links

- ✓ Videos: [Inequality Media](#)
- ✓ Article: [Preparing Our Students to be Civically Powerful](#)
- ✓ [Video Resources](#)
- ✓ [Teaching Units](#)
- ✓ [Books for Students](#)
- ✓ PBS.org [Lesson Plan: Fake News](#)
- ✓ Book: [The Formative Five: Fostering Grit, Empathy, and Other Success Skills Every Student Needs](#)
- ✓ Article: [The Key to Post-Truth Teaching: Epistemology and Knowledge](#)

*Always review resources before using them in class.

Visit us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for more resources



The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education

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