

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Get the Facts | Parents Boost Learning | Student Stuff | Schools | School Councils | Meet your Trustee | |
| PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD | | Be a Partner | Work in Peel | Media Desk | Calendar | Send Me More! |



Visit our [Media Desk](#) to learn more about board news.

Media Desk

NEWS release

May 25, 2005

Composing music of acceptance.... one note at a time

Peel board students learn how to compose songs to effect change, promote tolerance

Peel District School Board students experienced a unique learning opportunity this spring as they joined forces with Toronto-based professional singer/songwriter Gregg Lawless. The songwriting program, known as *Literacy and Values through Music*, is designed to help students improve their literacy skills while raising awareness of the need for tolerance and acceptance of those who are different. The curriculum focuses on the seven identified "isms" (racism, ageism, ableism, sexism, faith as an ism, heterosexism and classism).

As part of the program, grade 5 classes from 10 Peel schools were selected to work with Lawless to compose and perform original songs based on one of the "isms".

The following Peel schools are participating in this program:

Castlebridge Public School
 Corsair Public School
 Dixie Public School
 Dunrankin Drive Public School
 Homestead Public School
 Huntington Ridge Public School
 James Bolton Public School
 Kindree Public School
 Neil C. Matheson Public School
 Queen Street Public School

Lawless visited the schools to conduct songwriting workshops throughout the months of January to May. To supplement the songwriting portion of the curriculum, students studied their chosen "ism" in class through literature, reading, writing, oral communication, drama, visual art, technology, social

studies and music.

"The schools and the 275 students involved are very excited about the *Literacy and Values through Music* program," says Mary Ann Fratia, instructional co-ordinator of arts, health and physical education. "Using music as another form of literacy to explore important concepts of acceptance is being embraced by all schools and children involved."

The *Literacy & Values through Music* program culminates in a gala evening performance with Lawless and his five-piece band accompanying each group of students as they perform their original songs. The performances will take place at the Living Arts Centre, Hammerson Hall on June 1, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available directly from participating schools and by calling 905-890-1010, ext. 2524.

-30-

Media contact: Mary Ann Fratia, instructional co-ordinator, arts, health and physical education, 905-890-1010, ext. 2524

Reference: Laura Patel, Communications Officer, 905-890-1010, ext. 2652

[Back to top](#)

[Previous](#) | [Index](#) | [Next](#)

© 2005 Peel District School Board
For comments or questions, please send mail to
communications@peelsb.com