



Learners for Life

Learning without limits in a world of possibilities

MEDIA RELEASE

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Making music in Prairie Spirit School Division

The second annual Resonate Student Music Conference was two days of making music, learning from music industry professionals and forming new friendships for over 200 students from 20 Prairie Spirit schools. This unique conference was designed to give Prairie Spirit students in grades 7 to 12 the opportunity to pursue music learning based on their personal interests. This year, the conference was expanded to include students from outside the school division as well.

The overall goal of the conference was to further engage students in school through music and contribute to their development as musicians, both for those students who are already involved in music learning and those who are not, explained Kendra Worman, the school division's Music Support Facilitator. "It was exciting to see such a variety of musical instruments in tow as students filed off their buses when they arrived at the conference," she said.

This was the second year for this student conference, which was held April 14 and 15 at the Salvation Army Beaver Creek Camp. The camp provided a creative location without the distractions of a regular school day.

Students participated in one of the two days of the conference and chose sessions from approximately 30 options offered by a number of local, provincial and national music industry professionals, designed for students with a range of ability and knowledge. Session topics included: composing, guitar, drumming, digital recording, wind ensemble, hip hop, Beat making, jamming, and several others. These sessions were interactive, hands-on and designed for students.

"It was wonderful to see a mix of students from different musical backgrounds and different schools working together to make music," Worman said. "We were fortunate to go outside for some of our sessions. Creating music in nature under a warm sun was the icing on the cake!"

A central "jam stage" was available for students and music professionals to make music together. The jam stage was a busy place throughout the conference and was a focus for both students and music professionals. A music industry panel gave students the chance to learn about a wide variety of career paths available in the music field and how to pursue them. "The musicians provided positive messages for students around challenges they have had to face and other issues in society that impact their work," Worman explained.

Both days of the conference featured a performance by a music industry professional. *Bombargo*, a local band performed on the first day of the conference while *InfoRed* and *Merky Waters* performed on the second day.

A day-long professional development opportunity for music teachers on April 13 was an exciting addition to the Resonate schedule. The day was designed for music specialists and classroom teachers from around the province to come together to learn more about leading and facilitating music in their classrooms and schools.

The conference was made possible through the generous support of a number of corporate sponsors. Plans are already underway for Resonate 2017.

Prairie Spirit School Division serves over 10,500 students in 45 schools and 28 communities surrounding the City of Saskatoon.

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An instructor leading a group of students through a guitar lesson



Students and teachers making music together at Resonate