



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

*Mini We Day
Rainy River High School*



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Mini We Day *Rainy River High School*

Free the Children, a non-profit organization of youth helping youth around the globe, hosts *We Days* every year. One cannot buy a ticket to these events; tickets are earned through community service. Rainy River High School (RRHS) has been sponsoring the building and maintenance of a school in Sierra Leone, Africa for 9 years, raising over \$50,000 for this cause. As a result of this achievement, students of RRHS were invited to attend two *We Days* in Winnipeg during the 2012-13 school year.

Following these events, students were inspired to create their own *Mini We Day* at RRHS. The RRHS Student Council organized the May afternoon event by bringing together motivational speakers and performers from local, and greater areas, to present on the theme of "Empowerment". The Student Council wanted to inspire youth to feel free to express themselves and to embrace their uniqueness. As part of the Student Voice Initiative, the Student Council secured funding through a Student Success Speak Up grant to assist in financing the event.

The event was emceed by student, Jeff Marchuk, in coordination with Leo Melanson, Manager of the 102.3 Radio Station. The Winnipeg Blue Bomber Cheerleaders taught the audience the *We Day* dance and cheered as the staff/students played a game of wheelchair rugby coached by Jared Funk, three time medal winning Olympian wheelchair rugby player. Other speakers/presenters included: author Drew Hayden Taylor, parent and 4H Coordinator Kim Desserre, singer/teacher Renee Martin-Brown, and singers Sara Gall, Katelyn Shortreed and Trevor Barker. Skylar Arpin, Danika Diebel and Meagan Armstrong presented on the topic of eating disorders and Shelley Faintuch – a Holocaust Educator spoke to students about her many experiences.

The whole school was brought together for this amazing, successful experience that encouraged everyone to work to create positive change in their communities. The Student Council has announced that they are planning another *Mini We Day* for April 2014.