



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

***Connected North Program Presentation
Mine Centre School***

Regular Board Meeting:
September 6, 2016

For further information, please contact:
Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education
Barbe Dennis, Principal, Mine Centre School



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Connected North Mine Centre School

Date: September 6, 2016
To: Trustees
From: Barbe Dennis
Principal- Mine Centre School

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The RRDSB Strategic plan highlight purposeful learning as a pillar for student success.

- Purposeful, responsible and innovative use of technology as a communication and learning tool supports the achievement of all students.
- The unique historical and cultural story of our Aboriginal community is embedded in the curriculum.

CONTEXT

The Ontario Ministry of Education set ensuring equity as a goal in its 2014 *Achieving Excellence, A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*. Students in the north often do not have access to innovative learning experiences, venues and speakers that other students in our province have. Mine Centre School has been fortunate to participate in Connected North, a program that provides technology, collaboration and opportunity for our students.

SUMMARY

Connected North is an innovative, interactive virtual learning program that focusses on three main parts:

1. Experts

Live interactive sessions with experts from around the world. These sessions are selected by the classroom teacher, in conjunction with the students in the classroom. Experts include role models, and educational institutions such as museums, art galleries and laboratories. The classroom teacher works closely with an education program manager from TakingITGlobal (one of the many Connected North partners), in choosing and developing programming that reflects student voice and meets the needs of the student body.

2. Classroom Connect

Through the program, groups of students are able to connect with other students from across the country. Students and teachers collaborate on projects and share ideas, culture and life experiences, all through technology.

3. Educator Development

Teachers and support staff have the opportunity to participate in professional learning and collaboration with experts in the field.



This past year, students and staff participated in all three areas of the Connected North program. Students were excited to have had the opportunity to learn with and from experts from such instates as the Royal Tyrell Museum and Nasa Space Centre. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet and collaborate with students from an Etobicoke middle school who had guest speaker, Ojibwe poet and activist, Duke Redbird in their classroom. Simultaneously, MCS students had local Hip hop artist Jeremy Jordan in our school sharing his music and life stories with the entire group. Connected North is helping to improve student engagement by enhancing the classroom experience. Teachers and support staff spent one of the P.A. days working with Dr. Catherine O'Brien from Cape Breton University on the topic of Sustainable Happiness.

Such innovative, collaborative and engaging learning would not be possible without the Connected North program and its team of supporters. This program offers our students the opportunity to learn with the world and to share their ideas, their language, their culture, and their hopes for the future with other students from across our country.

ROUTING

SPT/Senior Administration	September 6, 2016
Board	September 6, 2016
