

This all started with a simple grant application!

2022 Saskatchewan Culture Days Grant Application

Mosaic Multicultural Week at Sacred Heart High School, Yorkton

October 14, 2022

Our goal is to celebrate the diverse cultures that are represented by our students and staff. Making everyone feel welcome and valued is important to our school. Our culture club will facilitate activities throughout the week. We plan to invite community members to help our students showcase the different cultures that make up our student body. We will highlight a different culture every day (Indigenous, Metis, Ukrainian, Filipino, and African).

We will showcase each culture with:

- School Prayers that highlight both cultural importance and traditional language.
- Students and staff are encouraged to wear traditional clothing corresponding with the highlighted culture.
- A culturally traditional meal will be available through our school cafeteria.
- A showcase table will be set up in the student commons throughout the day (traditional art, books that highlight the culture, music, food samples, etc.) – October 14, 2023
- A lunch and learn activity every day at lunch that showcases an aspect of each culture (Creating Ukrainian eggs, Traditional Indigenous Beading, African Dancing, Filipino games, Metis Jigging)
- Culminating activity: A fashion show, traditional indigenous drumming, and storytelling assembly to highlight all the different cultures that make up our student body.

Our school has a strong social media presence via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. We would promote not only the event but the SDA for sponsoring it. We would also take photos and include them in the yearbook. Lastly, we would advertise in our parent newsletter.

Name of the adult member applying for this grant along with contact information.

Kerrie Shearer - cultural club advisor for Sacred Heart High School - 306-783-3128 - kerrie.shearer@cttcs.ca

Susan Barton - teacher at Sacred Heart High School - 306-783-3128 - susan.barton@cttcs.ca

Adult member's SDA membership number. Susan Barton - 218014

YORKTON, SASK

A celebration of culture took place at a Yorkton High School on Friday, which showcased student-led exhibits, traditional food, and dance.

Scott Musqua remembers a time when the Sacred Heart High School had a “formal day,” where students would show up in suits and dresses — and he, in his ribbon shirt.

The Keeseekoose First Nation member, who has been a counsellor at the school for the past 20 years, noticed kids didn’t have the ability to show off their own culture, like he was able to with his shirt.

Musqua pitched an idea to have a full-on “Culture Day,” hoping to make a difference in the school.

“A lot of people that aren’t the visible minorities, you don’t know what culture they belong to. I thought it would be really cool if we could have a day to acknowledge everybody’s culture,” he said.

“Culture is kind of, the backbone of everybody.”

Students of Ukrainian, Indigenous, Metis, African, and Filipino descent created exhibits. The Filipino exhibit boasted a lot of pride, including foods and dance to show off to the students.

“We want them to be able to have a welcoming experience,” said Gabrielle Ballado, one of the organizers.

“(So) they can be comfortable with us, and they can have food and they can have fun.”

The Ukrainian exhibit included a full meal spread for the students, and it was a good exercise to go through, according to Dasha Smaglii, one of the organizers.

“It was pretty interesting to actually be able to show off my culture, because I’m also in Ukrainian dance. But this is a bit of a different way, because it shows a whole different bunch of aspects to it,” she said.

Musqua didn’t create and facilitate this entire day on his own – he had a lot of help, notably from teachers like Marie-Ann Blenkin and Kerrie Shearer.

“It’s so nice for the two of us to watch our kids be so embracing of it, and wanting to participate in it. Wanting to celebrate their own cultures and the pride that comes with it,” Shearer said.

For Musqua, it was a day full of smiles, and baking his mom’s secret Bannock recipe.

“When I was young, I could watch my mom make bannock for hours,” he said, while pushing out the dough in the school’s cafeteria.

He said the students walk a little higher and show pride once they experience practicing their own culture.









