

School At The Legislature

Grade 5/6 Field Trip to Edmonton

April 21-25, 2008

Susa Creek School
Northland School Division 61

Best Seat in the House

By Cheryl McDonald

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On Friday April 25 at the Legislative building we went to the Premiers office. It was really nice. He had all sorts of gifts from other places and they are placed in glass cabinets in his office. The Premier wasn't there so Michelle, one of his staff, toured us through his office. Michelle put on western clothes and taught us how to line dance to the Premiers favorite song by

Paul Brandt, called "Small Towns and Big Dreams." Michelle showed us a secret door in the Premiers office and told us we couldn't tell a soul about it. It blended in with the walls and they used to keep all sorts of money in but now it is a storage room. After the end we each got to sit in the Premiers chair and the teachers took pictures of us.



Group picture in the Office of the Premier.

Sergeant-at-Arms

By Gage Joachim

Mr. Brian Hodgson is the Sergeant at Arms at the Legislative Assembly in Alberta. Mr. Hodgson took us on the floor of the chamber and he told us all about his job. The Sergeant at Arms has two roles at the Legislative Assembly. He enforces the speakers directions and keeps order on the floor of the Assembly. The Sergeant at Arms leads the daily parade with the Mace, opening each sitting on the floor of the assembly. He also is the chief security officer for the Legislative Assembly. He is the only person who can touch or carry the mace. The mace was part of the fighting equipment of the mounted men at arms. Over time it became ornamental and was recognized as the emblem of a royal Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Hodgson took a leave of absence in 2004 to serve with the Canadian forces in Afghanistan.



Library Tour

By Leashea Delorme



Legislative Library.

On Wednesday the 23 of April, we went on a tour of the library with Warren, one of the librarians at the Legislative library. We saw tons of books. Warren asked us if we could guess how many books we thought there were. Stephen guessed 50,000. He was off by 450,000. Warren said there was about 500,000 books in the library! And more in storage! That is a lot of books! And he also showed us a cool magnifier that he used to put tiny scanned papers called microfilm. The microfilm looked like a film from a camera. There were tons of microfilm some with old documents on them

some with old newspapers dated back to the 1800's! He even showed us the first edition of the Mountaineer dating back to the 1970's! He showed us a website where you could read really old news papers! There were two very old chairs that only the Lieutenant Governor and the Queen could sit in - those are some very special chairs! There was a book he showed us that has 3007 pages! The library has a cork floor that is almost 100 years old! It has been there since 1912! There also was a stained glass window that was a gift. We saw a book called "3500 good jokes for Speakers" it looked like a funny book.

Coast Edmonton House Hotel

By: Cheryl McDonald

On Monday April 21 when we got to Edmonton we went and settled in at our hotel, the Coast Edmonton House Hotel. Mark and the boys' room was on floor thirty three and room number 3304. Their room had a kitchen, a pull out couch, another couch, two bathrooms, a kid bed room, and a master bedroom. The view from Mark's room was awesome - you could see the Legislative building and it's huge! The girls stayed on floor sixteen. Maggie's group (Amber, Leashea and Cheryl) stayed in room 1611 and Joanne's group (Emy, Angeline and Hayden) stayed in 1612 beside Maggie's room. The girls' rooms had a kitchen, a pull out

couch, a bedroom with two beds, and a bathroom. On the mezzanine level there was a pool, a fitness room and a tiny grocery store. You could take the stairs if you want but it is a long way down from the thirty third floor! We got used to the hotel really fast. The first night we ordered pizza in. After we ate some pizza we had to wait to go swimming so we wouldn't drown. We were swimming for a long time and then we went to bed. Each morning we got dressed then went up to eat breakfast in Mark's room. I think everyone would agree that the best thing about our hotel was the pool!



Amber, Leashea and Cheryl in their hotel room.



Emerice, Angeline and Hayden going for a dip.

Bungee Jumping!

By Chase Moberly

Last week on the field trip Kane and I went bungee jumping at West Edmonton Mall. We went really high. We jumped up to 25 feet in the air, while the rest of the boys watched from the second floor. Kane got scared when the man started to crack his knuckles to launch him higher into the air, then he did the same to me! We did 15 back flips and then wanted to try some front flips but our time was up. It was a lot of fun!



Arcade

By Kane Joachim

When we went to the arcade Chase and I were playing a shooting game. It was called Kill the Boss. Stephen and DJ were walking around and this guy came up to them and gave them over three hundred tickets. They came to me with the tickets and said, "We just got over three hundred tickets from a guy." They cashed the tickets in for prizes. Chase and I were getting tokens so we could play longer on the game called Pinball. Mark was playing Mini Hockey.

Mock Legislature

By DJ Delorme



Leashea (Media person), Colleen (Tour Guide), and me (Sergeant at Arms)



Joanne as the Lieutenant Governor.

We took part in a mock legislature assembly — that is when you dress up like people in the Legislative Assembly. I was the Sergeant at Arms. It was fun. The person who plays the sergeant at arms gets to hold the mace. The fake mace is made out of wood. When you are the media you just sit at a desk, it is the easiest job there. Joanne, our teacher, was the Lieutenant Governor.



Mock Legislature activity.

The Infrastructure Tour!

By Hayden Moberly

On April 24, at 10:30a.m we went in 3 different groups for an infrastructure tour. The first group had Leashea, Amber, Cheryl and Maggie. Group two had Angeline, Emy, myself and Joanne. Group three had Mark, Kane, Chase, DJ, Stephen and Gage. We went three different ways. My group took the elevator to the 6th floor. We went into a room that had Christmas stuff in it. The room had a set of stairs which led us to the top floor. When we got up the stairs, there was a big circle in the middle of the floor. Around it was palm trees. Visitors who come in and look up, can just barley see the palm trees. We went to the top to look at them up close. Then we looked out all the windows and saw flags. We looked up and saw stairs and we asked him where those led to. The guide said it went to the very top. We asked if we could go up there. So we did. Joanne said she was going to bring her camera, but she was so scared she forgot it. Then we got to the end of the stairs and there was a small door. He opened the door and we went in and there were some more stairs. We went up them there was another door. It was a door like an attic. We opened it and there was a ladder. Then we finally got to the very top where the flag was. Then we went back down all the stairs. We got to the bottom and the boys were there. Joanne asked Mark to take pictures up there. Then we went back down and they went up. We went into a different room and there was a secret door on the wall. He opened it and we went in. There was more stairs we went up and it was like a little fort. Then we went down more stairs. We went into an old radio room. Then we went to the very bottom of the legislature building and looked in the storage room, where they keep lots of toilet paper. Then we went back up and that was the end of the tour.



Going up!



Kane in the attic!



In the basement of the Legislature.

Bowling!

By Amber McDonald

Last month our class went on a field trip to the Legislature Building in Edmonton. On Tuesday evening we got to go do something fun! We went bowling at Ed's Rec Room in West Edmonton Mall. The bowling alley we went to was huge! There were 30 lanes of 10 pin bowling. There was an automatic machine that kept score so we didn't have to write down our scores. Everyone had lots of fun! The funniest thing that happened was when Leashea was holding a bowling ball and the holes in the ball were small so it was tight on her fingers. When she let go of the ball it stuck to her fingers and she wiped out. Luckily she was okay!



Legislature Building Tour

By Stephen McDonald

On Tuesday we went on a tour of the legislative building. First we saw the classroom we would be working in. It was different from our classroom at our school. After that we received security tags. Then our tour guide Colleen showed us the building. We got to go see some really old pictures, and we saw a picture of the first government. Two of the pictures (King Edward and Queen Mary) looked like they were watching you when you walked by. We also got to know some facts about the building and its history. It was built in 1905. The building is made from a whole bunch of marble. There are a lot of flowers surrounding the fountain. When you reach the fountain, and you look straight up, there are some palm trees. On the second floor, there is a special spot you stand in, and if the fountain downstairs is on it sounds like water is falling on your head. There is one gold elevator that was shot with a shot gun and now there is a hole in it and nobody uses it anymore. The tour was A LOT of walking.



Elevator door with bullet holes.



Picture of Queen Mary whose eyes seem to follow you!



The "magic" water spot.

The Old Spaghetti Factory

By Angeline Hallock

On Wednesday night we headed to the West Edmonton Mall to eat at The Old Spaghetti Factory. We sat at a table that was set up for the class. We ordered our food and sat until the food came. I ordered spaghetti but no meat balls and coke. Lots of the other kids ordered the same thing but with sprite. We had bread on the table and we ate some of it with butter. We also had salad or soup, I had salad. When the food arrived I was all stuffed but I ate lots. After that when all the students were finished the waitress served us green, white, and brown ice cream. Over all it was a great meal, the student's behaved and we had good service to our table. The food was delicious and the ice cream was too. We left the restaurant all full.



Session of Government

By: Amber McDonald



This is the chamber where the government sits. We sat in the upper level, called the gallery. The chair in the middle on the lower level is where the Premier sits.

While we were at the Legislature we met our MLA Robin Campbell. We had our picture taken with him on the stairs that lead to the chamber. Before we entered the chamber to listen to how they make laws we had to go through a metal detector and security. When we entered the chamber (the gallery are the upper seats) our tour guide told us that we couldn't clap or make a sound while sitting in these seats. The MLA's below had a traditional welcoming of visitor's by banging their hands on their desks. They also bang their desks when they approve of something another MLA has to say. We were introduced by Mr. Campbell to the assembly. We had to stand and then we sat down. They talked about oil prices, how much water we use, and also the environment.



Cabinet Room

By Emy Hallock

When we went into the Cabinet Room it was surprisingly quiet. I thought it was going to be all loud and a bunch of people on their computers and answering the phones but it was very nice and quiet. The guy that was talking to us was pretty nice. He asked us questions and we asked him questions. We learned the desks were put in an oval shape. The part that I thought was weird was that there were two layers of doors but he told us that they have to have two doors for security because what was discussed in that room was not to be shared with anybody. On the two walls across from each other there were big flat screen TVs but they were actually hooked up to a computer so it worked like a computer monitor. The desks had name tag cards that had Minister's titles, like Minister of Education and Minister of Health. The MLA Cabinet Minister that sat in each desk had to make a statement about their Ministry or Department, then if all agreed that it was a real issue they would discuss it with the Premier and then maybe they would decide to form a new bill to try to pass a new law.



Pretending to be Cabinet Ministers!



Name plates at each spot identify which minister sits where.



The Cabinet Ministers of all of Alberta's Governments have sat in this room to discuss issues.

The Grade 5/6 Class would like to thank:

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- Diana Panizzon at Visitor Services for organizing everything for us
- all of the tour guides and workers at the Legislature

A word from the teacher:

I would first like to thank all of the students for their behaviour and enthusiasm, you really made the trip worthwhile! You are a great bunch!! I would also like to thank everyone at the school for helping to make this trip a reality, special thanks to Tammy for help with all of the paperwork and Mark and Maggie for coming along as supervisors. I would also like to thank the parents for allowing your children to participate, I hope they have created memories that will last a lifetime!

-Joanne



We owe our thanks to the teachers for working so hard and a special thanks to Joanne for entering our class room to get this field trip! And thank you Maggie and Mr. Mark for coming and taking care of us and putting up with our behavior! Thank you!