
An award-winning season for students at W.H. Day Elementary

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It's been an amazing year for students at W.H. Day Elementary School in Bradford.

Teacher Mali Bickley and her Grade 5 students continue to gather honours for their use of technology, and their involvement in programs like the iEARN "Machinto" project - a project that asked students to "imagine peace," in art and prose.

Bickley's class exchanged images and writings with their counterparts in the U.S., Australia, East Jerusalem, Iraq, Iran, Taiwan and Afghanistan, asking, "What does peace look like?"

They did more: her "Dreamteam 2.0", a group of 11 year old students, took the more than 100 images they received, and selected artwork to create a short film, "Imagine Peace."

"It's really a simple film. It's a collection of pictures of peace from around the world," Bickley says.

The film was entered in the 5th annual My Hero Short Film Festival. The My Hero Project was established to "celebrate the best of humanity", using media and technology, and to empower youth. Based in California, My Hero offers a website, programs and links that are used by teachers in schools and libraries around the world.

The 4-minute film from Bradford won second place in the Elementary School category - and won the Ron Kovic Peace Prize, named for a world-renowned peace activist.

"It was quite the honor," said Bickley, who travelled to Los Angeles 3 weeks ago to receive the Award at the My Hero Film Festival.

That isn't the end of the recognition that Bickley and her class have received.

Just this week, they won a National "Show-and-Tell" Contest, for their use of Classroom Sound technology.

The contest was launched by FrontRow, a division of Phonic Ear wireless technology. Classrooms across Canada and the U.S. were invited to try out the new FrontRow student microphone, described as a 21st century "talking-stick", and enter a video of the device's use in the classroom.

Bickley's Grade 4-5 class at W.H. Day was the winner – demonstrating how the pass-around microphone increased student confidence, participation and interest, and facilitated classroom interaction with people around the world.

As the Grand Prize winner, W.H. Day Elementary will receive 5 complete FrontRow Pro Digital systems, with both teacher and student mics, IR Speakers and drop-in chargers – allowing more classrooms at the school to receive the benefits of the new technology. Bickley's class will also receive an MP3 Player, for podcasting – and the opportunity to discuss the history of the traditional "talking stick" with an Aboriginal person via Skype, the classroom computer, and the Pro Digital system.

Total value of the grand prize: \$10,000.

"We are honoured to be recipients of this prize, and extremely excited for the other classes receiving this wonderful sound system in our school," says Bickley. "It really does enable us to communicate more effectively with our global partners during web and video conferences, as we can hear them as if they were in the room with us."

She adds, "With the new student microphone, I've noticed how eager my students are to share their work. Their confidence level to share in front of others has soared, thus allowing for an enthusiastic classroom of interactive learning."

And once again, putting W.H. Day on the cutting edge of technology and education.

To see the My Hero winning film, visit [www .myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)

To see the winning FrontRow video, visit <http://gofrontrow.com/showandtell>

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