

School celebration marks 125 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada

A cultural extravaganza of music, song and dance—along with an historical look at the waves of immigration—recognized the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

Adorned in traditional dress, students from Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School, who spent weeks rehearsing and preparing routines, put on a show in front of a capacity crowd at Lakeview Church on May 19.

“It really was a whole-school effort,” said Shelly Lord, principal at Bishop Filevich. “We’re blessed to have a really strong, close-knit community, and everyone pitched in to make the evening a truly wonderful celebration. I extend a huge thank you to our teachers, our families and the entire Saskatoon Ukrainian community for their continued support.”

According to Library and Archives Canada, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw were the first recorded Ukrainian settlers to arrive in Canada in 1891. Approximately 150,000 Ukrainian immigrants arrived between 1891 and 1914, with the vast majority settling in the Prairie provinces where they obtained land to farm. This was the first of three waves of Ukrainian settlement in Canada.

With 44 schools and nearly 17,000 students, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools provides Catholic education from pre-kindergarten through Grade 12, rooting students in their faith, helping them grow in knowledge, and encouraging them to reach out and transform the world.

Bishop Filevich Ukrainian Bilingual School is Saskatchewan’s only Ukrainian bilingual school.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Derrick Kunz, Communications Consultant
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
306-659-7077 | dekunz@gscs.sk.ca