

### **Literacy superheroes save the day**

Students at Bishop Klein School have designed their own comic books—complete with 3D-printed characters—to promote youth literacy.

Comic-Klein, an event showcasing their work, was held at the school on June 2.

Special guest Tom Grummett, an artist with DC Comics who has worked on titles such as *The New Titans*, *The Adventures of Superman*, *Superboy*, *Power Company* and *Robin*, was at the event visiting classrooms, answering student questions and showing some of his own work.

“I was the kind of kid who would read everything I could get my hands on, and comic books grabbed my attention,” said Grummett. “I’ve been fortunate; I was able to turn my passion for reading into a career. Maybe one of these students will be able to do the same.”

Based on the popular Comic-Con events featuring comic book heroes and villains, the showcase featured the work of students in Grades 5 to 8 who created their own comic books. Using a 3D printer, students brought their characters off the page, and, using stop-motion animation, brought them to life in a short movie.

“Superheroes are hugely popular. We thought it would be a great way to pique the interest of our students,” said Kayla Elash, the Grade 7 teacher at Bishop Klein who spearheaded the initiative. “Blockbuster movies, action figures and other merchandise have their roots in comic books, so we went back to those roots to stress the importance of literacy and reading.”

Elash noted that adding modern touches with the 3D-printed characters and stop-motion movie made it interesting and relevant for today’s technologically-driven students.

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.

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