

The Caretaker’s Story sheds light on residential schools

Grade 7 students at St. Augustine School have written and produced *The Caretaker’s Story*, a movie based on what they have learned about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and residential schools in Canada.

Instead of a play, students chose to create a movie for a drama project. As part of a joint English language arts/social studies inquiry project, the students researched the history of residential schools in Canada and their impact on First Nations students and families.

The Caretaker’s Story is a tale of truth and reconciliation that takes place in a modern-day boarding school. Two students, Kate and Leah, who don’t see eye to eye, find a journal that was written by the school’s old caretaker. What Kate, Leah and their friends experience next is a journey of acceptance and understanding of an unsettling event in our country’s past.

“The students did a fantastic job of capturing this difficult subject matter,” said Chris Weiman, the Grade 7 teacher at St. Augustine. “The story says it all: confronting the past can make us uncomfortable, but it’s necessary if we are ever to have true reconciliation in our country and in our communities.”

Using the information they learned, students worked in groups creating characters, writing, producing, and creating sets and props for the one-of-a-kind movie. They learned to use a variety of technology available to them, such as video cameras, sound recording equipment, a green screen, lighting and video editing software.

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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