



STACIE SNOW/MORNING STAR

JADE DAVIDSON performed a monologue at the year-end Global Ed gala at Fulton Secondary School on Wednesday.

Students send a message

BY STACIE SNOW
MORNING STAR STAFF

Gazing around the brightly decorated room at the year-end Global Ed gala, it was easy to pick out the students; they were the ones with the tears in their eyes and the smiles spread across their faces.

The students celebrated the conclusion of their semester at Fulton Secondary School on Wednesday by displaying their final projects to friends, family, community officials and anyone who would listen to their message of environmental conservation, generosity and compassion.

For most, Global Ed was more than just a class, it was a life-altering experience.

“At the beginning of the class I thought I was more open-minded, but I was judgmental and I’ve come to realize we are all the same,” said Grade 11 student Emma Firlotte.

“You get perspective on how real things affect our world. It makes you think and grow as a person and I am more open and happier now.”

Loren Romei transferred from Kalamalka Secondary School to Fulton to take part in the program.

“I went into Global Ed because I wanted to be involved in the community and make a difference,” she said.

“It changed the way I view people, now I know there are more important things in life than material objects.”

The class is designed to teach students through real experiences, making the lesson more tangible and lasting.

This year, the students have taken part in community building projects including

an impromptu luncheon, teaching ESL to individuals at the Vernon and District Immigrant Services Society, spending a night on the streets of downtown Vernon, and organizing a famine to support the Good Food Box Program.

Despite their many experiences, all of the students agreed that their April trip to an orphanage in Nicaragua was the highlight of the semester.

“There are no words to describe the impact that the trip has had on me,” said Brittany Byars. “It taught me so much about myself and gave me a new family.”

Each student was required to create a project that displayed the lessons they have learned and benefitted the community in some way.

Projects included a diverse array of initiatives such as a breakfast program for local kids, environmental awareness initiatives, artistic displays, documentaries, and fundraisers for the Casa Hogar orphanage in Nicaragua, Teens for Tots and young parenting programs.

The gala included a traditional Aboriginal welcome, student and teacher journal readings, a monologue, a documentary and a performance of the song *Hallelujah*, sung by Sam Stoopnikoff, that brought the students to tears.

Before presenting his journal entry, Global Ed teacher Al Gee shared his feelings on the past five months.

“Global Ed provides an environment where we all learn, not just the kids but the adults too and that is a healthy atmosphere to be a part of,” said Gee.

“I want to thank the kids for learning and growing with me.”