

Feature Story



CES students put a modern spin on history

Technology tells the story of Coalhurst's centennial

Everyone loves a great story and Coalhurst has lots of great stories to tell – 100 years worth to be exact. In 2013, Coalhurst will celebrate its centennial. As part of this celebration, two CES teachers are engaging their students in a year-long project that will get them excited about the history of our community.

Emma Lenz and Darlene Hubber are using technology to bring together their respective 1/2 and 5/6 classes and embark on an innovative venture the entire community can be involved in.

Moving Forward with the Past – 100 Years of Coalhurst History will get students researching, storytelling, writing and illustrating. They will use various mediums including audio, video, online and print to share the stories of Coalhurst.

The project blog which can be found at <http://coalhurst2013.edublogs.org/> will be an important tool for connecting the student with the community.



Storyteller, Marie Kelly, helps grade 1/2 CES students learning to tell stories as they embark on a year-long project celebrating 100 years of Coalhurst history.

"We'd love for people to come to our blog and share comments and photos," says Hubber.

The classes have started to learn about storytelling and what it takes to build a good story. They will be welcoming guest speakers each month to hear stories which they will retell.

The first guest speaker, past CES principal, Laurie Wilson visited the students at the end of January and shared wonderful memories from her years teaching in Coalhurst.



Past CES principal, Laurie Wilson visited students to share stories of her years teaching in Coalhurst.

"I think it will be good for the students to meet people and make connections in the community," says Lenz who grew up in Coalhurst. "Lots of times they don't have a connection to the town outside of school."

On top of being a fun and engaging project, this initiative is also an excellent learning opportunity. It meets many of the curriculum requirements of both the classes in social studies and language arts.

A field trip is also planned to the Galt Museum in the spring where students can learn how history is shared.

"I want the students to understand that the kids who lived here in the past have a story to tell," says Hubber. "What I think they will discover is they weren't really that different."