

Board-wide Action

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration ...

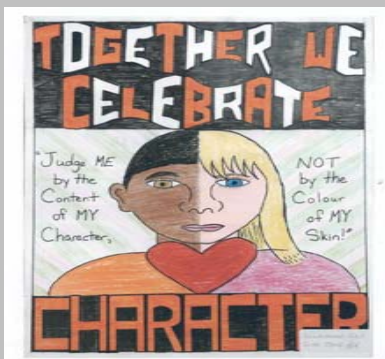
About the program ...

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board celebrates the life and messages of social justice hero and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at its annual [*Together We Celebrate Character – Keeping the Dream Alive*](#) event. Each year, approximately 300 students from 30 schools put expectations from the Ontario curriculum into action through music, dance and visual arts at Hamilton Place where they perform for an audience of 2,300 students, parents and community members.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Student learning includes writing and performing music, choreographing and performing dance, designing and building sets, coordinating and participating in poster and essay contests, and creating a variety of media products to market their production. Students demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills while meeting (or exceeding) music, dance, visual arts, math, and language curricula expectations.
- Performers develop courage, integrity, responsibility and trustworthiness as they work collaboratively over several months to create the performances. In addition, mentors from the music industry perform as guests, collaborate on stage and act as career role models.
- Staff members teach literacy lessons about Dr. King's life, issues of social justice, peace education/non-violence and character attributes through read-alouds, shared reading of songs, SMART board lessons and writing activities.
- Students, staff and audience members develop an awareness of how character attributes such as acceptance, caring, citizenship, courage, empathy, integrity and responsibility can bring about social change and equality for all, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or culture.
- Parents support school-based music programs as volunteers in preparation for the day as well as backstage, helping teachers supervise student performers and leaders in some aspects of production.



To find out more, contact ...

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