

Student Voice

Social Justice Fair and Film Festival ...

About the program ...

The board's annual Social Justice Fair and Film Festival raise awareness about social justice issues and celebrate the work, talents and efforts of the students, staff and schools who participate. The Social Justice Fair brings together youth from Grades 4-12 to share ideas and projects that answer the challenges of the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs). The Grades 1-12 Film Festival provides an opportunity for students to share their voices with peers and the community in a student-driven, creative and proactive way. Each film identifies a specific problem in the world and inspires students to take action through discussion and student-driven, school-based initiatives. Issues from local and global perspectives relating to the environment, war, poverty and health care are just some examples of film topics.



Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- At the Social Justice Fair, students have the opportunity to consider (or re-consider) their passions and work within the context of the eight Millennium Development Goals identified by the UN. The preparation, sharing and celebration of student achievements that focus on UN MDGs provide both an educational framework and positive growth experience for the students involved.
- Participating students develop stronger communicative and leadership skills and a sense of citizenship and moral responsibility which reinforces the aims of the ten Character Education attributes identified by the board.
- The preparation for and execution of the Social Justice Fair, as well as the action plan carried out in each participating school, link many subject and curricular areas such as construction technology, geography, the arts and science. Students with diverse learning styles are offered a variety of ways to engage through the use of a range of technologies.
- Transitions: Both the elementary and secondary panels (students, staff and parents) are involved in the organization, execution and attending of this event, fostering future collaboration. Secondary students are offered an authentic experience that may facilitate post-secondary pathways.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon personally responded and thanked HWDSB students with plaques that were subsequently hung in each participating school, validating and reinforcing the value of student engagement and participation.

To find out more, contact ...

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
100 Main St. West, P.O. Box 2558
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

Board website: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/>

Contact: Patrick Rocco (Superintendent of Education)
Phone: (905) 527-5093 x2673
Email: patrick.rocco@hwdsb.on.ca