

Classroom Champions - Monique Sullivan Visits Peace Wapiti
April 26, 2016 - April 27, 2016



Monique Sullivan, the Classroom Champions Olympic Athlete mentor, visited five very special Peace Wapiti classes, as she toured the Peace Country, with her Encana sponsor representatives Fiona Liebelt and Don Rowan, and Classroom Champion spokesperson, Michelle Comeau.

First Stop - Hythe Regional School - Grade Three with Tricia Klassen

When Monique arrived at HRS we were in the gym, just finishing up the dress rehearsal for our Spring concert. This was perfect timing as it allowed me to introduce her to the staff and students. She spoke a bit about her journey and Classroom Champions.

We all went out for recess where Monique participated in a soccer game with some of the students. They were so excited to have her join them. After recess we all came in and had a snack while the students asked her questions.



To complete her visit we did some exercises and had a group photo taken. It was a wonderful visit ... but far too short.



Second Stop - Beaverlodge Elementary School - Grade Four with Andrew Lojczyc



Monique started her visit at BES by visiting the class and answering pre-written questions. While she did this, the rest of the student body gathered in the gym for her "Grand Entrance" with my class marching her down into the gym, with music and flags.

In the gym, she talked to all of the students and answered more questions. We finished off the presentation by having a tricycle race between Monique and one of the students in our class, followed by lunch with Monique in the classroom. I am very sad that I missed all of the excitement, since I was gone to a

conference, but my students let me know they had a terrific time. Thanks to all those who assisted my students at the BBQ and with the school visit.



Third Stop - Helen E. Taylor School - Grade Six with Rhonda Johnson and Randy Hopkins



Monique taught us so much throughout the Classroom Champion program that we thought we might teach her some things! We told her how her lesson on perseverance made a big impact on us because, at that time, we were learning to play the ukulele and needed a lot of perseverance to get the hang of it! We played a few songs for her and then taught Monique, Michele Comeau, and Don and Fiona from Encana, how to play a song. It was a hoot!



Then we went to the gym and participated in a teambuilding activity where students (and Monique) had to work as a team to get some toxic waste (ie. Plastic balls:) into some neutralization solution (ie a bucket:). It was also a lot of fun!



The visit ended with autographs and a lot of hugs:) On her way out of town we had all of the students in the school line the road and wave red and white flags to wish her good luck in Rio!

Encana BBQ at Wembley Community Center - Tuesday, April 27

Helen E. Taylor School in Wembley hosted the community BBQ. Special thanks to Rhonda Johnson and Randy Hopkins for all their hard work organizing the venue.



Randy Hopkins and Rhonda Johnson set up a photo booth for entertainment at the BBQ.



Don Rowan from Encana cooking supper!



Long line up for food.



Tricia Klassen, Randy Hopkins, Rhonda Johnson, Monique Sullivan, Kasia Pfefferle, Collette Simpson and Jeannine Hay. Special thanks to Randy for getting the poster presentation organized!





All five classes on stage singing, "Dream Big" to Monique <https://youtu.be/vyzWJs9Gg5E>

Last Stop - Harry Balfour School - Grade three with Kasia Pfefferle and Collette Simpson



Mrs. Pfefferle's class and Mrs. Simpson's class waited with anticipation for Monique's visit. Monique arrived and spent time speaking with individual students, autographing shirts and answering questions.

It was wonderful to meet our classroom mentor in person and finally give her a great big hug! There were many smiles and the school sparked with excitement.

Then we headed to the gym for an assembly.



After the assembly, Monique returned to the classrooms with the students and enjoyed a “Potluck” luncheon. Students visited with Monique while she autographed and hugged everyone, again



The luncheon was a big hit. It was a great way to celebrate all of our Classroom Champion accomplishments. There was camaraderie, fun, respect and admiration for our wonderful mentor, Monique Sullivan.



Mrs. Simpson’s class sent their Teddy Bear Mascot, “Sully,” on a road trip with Monique. The class loved seeing Sully turn up, later, in photos posted by Monique.



This experience will forever be remembered by students long after other lessons have faded away. What a wonderful experience for these Classroom Champions! We were mentored by the best. Now it is our turn to return the favor by gathering up all our positive energy to send to Monique as she travels to the Olympics in Rio, to participate in her Track Cycling events. She is the best! Go for the gold, Monique!

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