

April 2, 2015



Tour for Humanity teaches Midland students about hate, human rights

Discussion touches on Holocaust, residential schools, cyber bullying



Midland Mayor Gord McKay, Huron Park Public School vice-principal Heidi Cameron, Armstrong, Simcoe Country District School Board trustee Michelle Locke, Midland Police Chief Mike Osborne and Tour for Humanity educator Daniella Lurion-Photo credit Jenni Dunning/Midland Mirror

Midland Mirror
By Jenni Dunning

MIDLAND – A classroom on four wheels rolled into Midland for the first time Thursday to teach Huron Park Public School students about hatred throughout history.

Tour for Humanity is an initiative by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

The tour features a wheelchair-accessible bus that can fit 30 students and houses large TV screens for a 45-minute interactive presentation on human rights.

Students are taught about instances of hate and discrimination from around the world, in Canada and locally. The presentation moves from the Holocaust to cyber bullying.

“It’s designed as a starting-off point” for discussion, said tour instructor Daniella Lurion. “I could focus on aboriginal residential schools for five hours and still not get through everything.”

According to [Statistics Canada](#), 57 per cent of people accused of hate crimes in 2012 were between the ages of 12 and 24.

“A lot of the time, these views are coming from home. A lot of parents don’t realize what they’re instilling in their kids,” Lurion said.

Students in grades 6-8 at Huron Park participated in Tour for Humanity.

“It’s about understanding history and relating back to kindness. That’s our school motto: ‘Kindness. Pass it on,’” said vice-principal Heidi Cameron Armstrong.

She said she hopes the tour can come back to Midland so more students can participate.

Tour for Humanity has a different presentation for younger students that has less history and includes more discussion and questions about stereotypes, heroes and how to be a good citizen, said Lurion.

The presentations include lessons on respecting diversity and taking a stand for positive changes at home, at school and in the community.

Midland police Chief Mike Osborne said a benefit of the presentation is it shows kids “how they can adapt and be better.”

With all the technology available today, “kids never escape bullying,” he added. “It’s an excellent program.”