



Students voted on the performances of fellow classmates and everyone received lots of applause and encouragement.



Ty Shreve and Kyle Pratt perform as Emcee Jonathan Torrens looks on.



Metallic Dice, with Ewan MacEachern, Chayse Petrie and Charlie Hill-Macmillan, was one of the groups chosen in the top five.



Carter Myatt and Kenny Bowers, otherwise known as the rap group Golden Boyz, were another of the Top Five Rap Artists.



Cooper Blackie, Spencer McGee and Keegan Johnson, the rappers SKC, were one of the Top Five Rap finalists in Chiganois Idol.



Congratulations to Chiganois Idol winners MC Twist (Isabella Taylor, Sophie McCabe and Brooke Orlak). The girls are joined by teacher Gina White, Jonathan Torrens and teacher Donna Macleod.



Judges Janelle White, Angela Saunders and Shelia Thompkins had a difficult time choosing a winner for Chiganois Idol.

Talented Rappers Take Stage at Chiganois Idol

By Linda Harrington

Keeping students engaged in the classroom can be a challenge, but a recent in-school rapping competition brought learning to a whole new level.

A few weeks ago, Grade 4/5 students at Chiganois Elementary were given an assignment to write lyrics to rap music. They not only had the assistance of their teachers, but Jonathan Torrens stopped by the school to mentor students.

Torrens may not be a rapper by trade, but he played one on the TV show Trailer Park Boys and has had many years in the entertainment business as performer, writer and producer. Students were thrilled to have him at their school and embraced his suggestions and guidance.

After many hours of work polishing their routines, students were ready to perform at the first Chiganois Idol, on January 19th.

The event was emceed by Jonathan Torrens with a panel of three judges, Angela Saunders, Shelia Thompkins and Janelle White. Each of the grade 4/5 students were given voting cards to vote for their favorite idol following each performance.

Students were so excited about their performances, many worked on their projects at home with their partners. Mrs. White told the classes she was proud of how the students worked together, "There was a lot of cooperation and collaboration. Even if you did not always agree you solved the problems with respect."

The competition was very strong, with rap lyrics covering a variety of topics from sports to antibullying. Some students were obviously nervous to get up before their peers but once they started

rapping they all had amazing performances. "Sometimes if you do things outside your comfort zone it is good for you," Jonathan told the students, adding, "You learned how to tell a story and express yourself in a different way."

Students were asked how they felt after performing and their comments included "you can do anything if you just try," everyone had a chance, and everyone just stood up and did it" and "we learned to be brave in front of a crowd". Grade 4/5 teacher,

Mrs. Macleod says students were meeting outcomes across writing, health and technology curriculum without even realizing it.

The judges had a difficult task picking just three winners and decided instead to pick the top five (in random order): Golden Boys (Carter Myatt, Kenny Bowers); Metallic Dice (Ewan MacEachern, Chayse Petrie, Charlie Hill-Macmillan); School Nerds (Allie Aitchison-Rant, Scarlet Micheline, Libbi-May Shaw); MC Twist (Isabella Taylor, Sophie McCabe, Brooke

Orlik) and SKC (Cooper Blackie, Spencer McGee, Keegan Johnson). These five acts will perform at the Spring Talent Show.

An honourable mention was given to School Nerds, who went home with gift cards and the top winner of Chiganois Idol was MC Twist. Isabella Taylor, Sophie McCabe and Brooke Orlak squealed with delight when they heard their name announced. They now have the exciting opportunity to make a Music Video with Jonathan Torrens, which will take place sometime in February.

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