

String Quartet Inspires Student's Artwork



Jennifer Jones, Ann Simons, Rory McLeod and Hillary Brown (l to r), of the Blue Engine String Quartet, provided background music for students at Great Village Elementary as they painted posters for the Scotia Festival of Music. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Students at Great Village Elementary were treated to a performance by the Blue Engine String Quartet on May 5th, thanks to a local connection to Elizabeth Bishop. Elizabeth Bishop is a famous poet with strong connections to the community of Great Village. As a young child, she lived in the village with her grandparents, and

attended "primer class" at Great Village Elementary. This year, many events have been planned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of her birth. The Scotia Festival of Music will be focusing on Elizabeth Bishop during a two week event in June and they invited students at GVE to do the cover art for their posters. The string quartet performance in the gymnasium pro-

vided background music while students completed this art project. Dr. Chris Wilcox, Manager and Artistic Director for Scotia Festival of Music, says they have been coming to a different school each year since 1988. "We usually go to schools in the Halifax area but this year, since we are doing 5 concerts dedicated to Elizabeth Bishop, we picked

Great Village because of her connection to this community," he says. "We enjoy receiving free artwork for our posters and the students get to come to a dress rehearsal, paid for by one of our sponsors."

Jennifer Jones, violinist with the Blue Engine String Quartet, one of the featured guest artists at the Scotia Festival of Music from May 29th to June 12th says they have been performing in the schools for a number of years but she was extremely impressed with the Great Village Elementary students. "This is probably the farthest we have come for a school performance and these kids were the quietest group we have ever performed in front of. They were very respectful listeners and I enjoyed watching their painting's developing on paper."

It was a unique experience for the Great Village Elementary students. Their artwork will be seen on posters all over Halifax for the next few weeks.

For more information on the Scotia Festival of Music performances go to www.scotiafestival.ns.ca and for more information on the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Festival 2011 go to elizabethbischopcelebration.ca.



Music seems to be inspiring Olivia Pugsley, Kadyrae Richards and Erin Miller (l to r) as they complete colourful posters for the Scotia Festival Music. A string quartet was playing in the gymnasium while the students let their creativity flow on paper. (Harrington Photo)

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