

Explore | Connecting with Partners

2School: An Urban Experience at the Ed Centre
2018-19 Annual Report



discover



engage





Students examine worldview around Day of the Dead exhibit

" It has given me the skills to take the time to slow down and wonder ."

- Teacher

26 years ago, the Calgary Board of Education led the development of an exciting new educational model that would take student learning beyond the four walls of the traditional classroom. Called Campus Calgary/Open Minds, the idea was for students to spend a whole week in a variety of environments where they could discover real-life connection to their learning.

The idea of 2School was first conceived in 2003 when plans were drawn up for a new administrative office in downtown Calgary. We knew we had the opportunity to bring students from around the city to an urban location where they could investigate the community and the role that public education plays in how a community is shaped. The urban environment provides endless learning opportunities, including a circa 1908-1912 classroom with original CBE furnishings and artifacts.

Celebrating 26 years this year, Campus Calgary/Open Minds with support of the Calgary Board of Education continues to lead the development of an exciting education model. With 14 full sites, the CC/OM model continues to grow and expand. The concept is so popular with schools that sites are booked a year in advance. CC/OM is 60 per cent over subscribed resulting in turning schools down for the following year.

In 2018-19, 682 CBE and Calgary Catholic School District students spent a week at the Education Centre. This coming year, we will continue to expand the possibilities as we welcome teachers and their students who are new to the concepts of CC/OM.

This report includes some of the highlights from our 2018-2019 school year. 2School is a partnership between the Calgary Board of Education, its stakeholders, the surrounding community and Campus Calgary. As a program, 2School brings teachers, students and community experts together for a week-long curriculum-based experience utilizing the downtown urban environment as their classroom.

Learning | Together

This program brings together Calgarians to learn, talk and celebrate the vibrant rich inner city neighborhoods and the many exciting things they have to offer. Each week is personalized for the attending class with CBE employees and community members sharing their expertise while working alongside students.

Students are immersed in education and come to understand how it serves citizens. Students explore stories and have direct experiences with spaces and places which help them develop a greater connection to the Calgary community and their own identity as a Calgarian. Students also create change as they realize their importance in shaping their city.

Each week is designed to be transformative for the participating class. The program is also intended to be an integral part of the students' yearlong study. The program's coordinator supports this relationship by sending a weekly newsletter to all participating classes entitled 2School News. Addressed to students, this is intended to highlight what is happening in our schools and in our city, community celebrations and current events that connect their studies and curriculum (Alberta Program of Studies). The newsletter also introduces teachers to resources that support learning in their classroom. Feedback has been very positive as it supports teaching and learning.

These weekly newsletters also create a space for teachers and the coordinator to communicate and celebrate the work before, during and after a week at 2School. As such, this report aims to offer insight into how a week at 2School was embedded into a year of learning in the 2018– 2019 school year, highlighting our many partners.



Students work in the historic classroom

"2school helped me understand and appreciate the efforts and thoughts that went into making this city a beautiful place." -Student

Partnerships are an integral part of the 2School program. Each week is uniquely designed specifically for that class. Students walk in the footsteps of the experts working side by side CBE staff and community partners.



Observing artist Cecile Albi in her studio

“Taking our learning outside of the four walls of our school. I’ve also started pondering on how “field trips” will look in the future. I’m excited to create my own explorations with experts instead of the traditional site based field trips.”

- Teacher

University School Grade 5/6

What is beautiful and who decides?

Students from University School focused on examining what is beautiful in Calgary and the many people in our city who make decisions that directly affect us. Through the lens of art, architecture, community and nature, students explored Calgary’s downtown to discover and question the role that beauty plays in our city and how this influences communities and well-being.

Students worked with Tomas Jonsson, from the City of Calgary’s Public Art and Engagement team to determine what public art is in Calgary, who are the decision makers in the process and how this policy is getting re-imagined. Students also met with their city councillor, school trustee and the Deputy Chief Superintendent of the CBE to determine how important the role of beauty plays in our city, from public parks and infrastructure to the importance of safe and caring school communities.

Throughout the week students examined the role that Calgary’s arts and culture plays in creating and enhancing beauty in our city. Students got a firsthand look at how Alberta Ballet is collaborating with Calgary Opera on productions, how world renowned artists are being highlighted in our city and how Calgary artist’s work is appearing in cities around the world. By visiting cSPACE and watching artists Cecile Albi and Feast Letterpress work in their mediums, students gained an understanding and appreciation for how local artists can create beauty for our city and share their passion with others.

University School engaged with their own community to examine how beauty is portrayed and if there can be some ways to enhance and call to attention the importance of beauty on well-being. Through getting the opportunity to work with the upcoming University District community they will get to see how new communities have the ability and responsibility to be intentional around their plans to include beauty and how this is decided upon.

John Ware Grade 8

How Do Our Experiences Shape our Identity and our Worldviews?

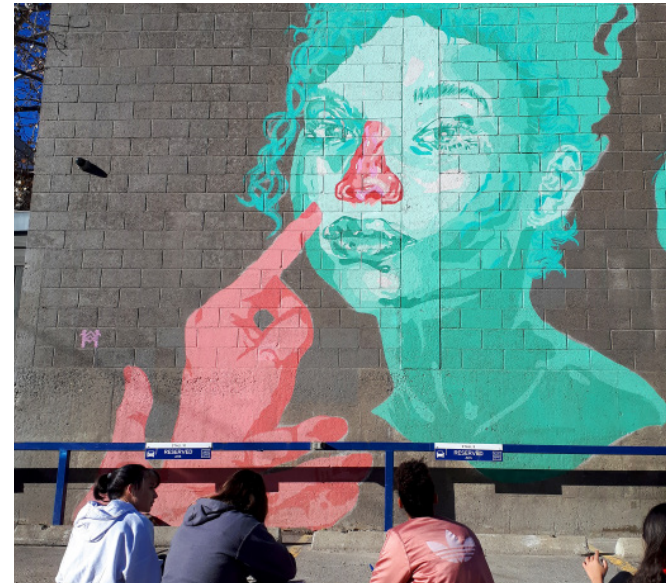
Throughout the week, Grade 8 students thought about the many social, cultural and institutional structures that are a part of their lives and how these might challenge or reinforce their own personal worldviews and how single stories about people, events and issues are dangerous and limiting. Working alongside a CBE Indigenous learning specialist, Leslie Tait, students came to understand that multiple worldviews can be held and this gathering of knowledge is true, important and beautiful.

Questions around STEM innovations, sparked the opportunity for students to ride an Electronic Autonomous Vehicle (ELA) shuttle and to hear from engineers who designed the tracking device. Students reflected on the willingness of citizens to embrace autonomous vehicles and how cultures around driving and city planning will be influenced by this innovation.

Students also examined what stories are being told through public spaces (New Central Library), the arts (Calgary Opera), architecture and the land (Weaslehead Flats) to understand how perspectives shape our worldviews and the identity of our city. Students asked the question, what are the stories that the Beltline murals (BUMP) telling about Calgary? Through examining the art in the district, students came to interpret the stories that were being shared about Calgary and also identified stories that were not told. Students reflections illuminated the need for multiple stories and perspectives of our city to be highlighted by our art, as it is an important way to message our identity and provide a more complete story of who we are.

In meeting with the Deputy Chief Superintendent and School Trustee, students were able to understand different perspectives in public education, what is important now and how students are being supported in their learning.

Students discovered that there are many layers that inform our worldviews and identity. By questioning their assumptions of what “normal” means they have begun to open opportunities for dialogue and change, in themselves, in the community they live in and in our city.



Beltline Urban Murals Project (BUMP): What story does this share about Calgary?

“I always thought our city was bleak & ugly, 2school showed us that our city was not just a grey industrial place. It was a place with art, citizens, culture and imagination .”

- Student



Random Acts of Kindness
for our city

"I had no idea these
places existed in our
city."

- Teacher

Evergreen Grade 3

What Matters for the Future of Calgary?

Evergreen school examined their question through the unique perspectives from the land, the people, and the built environment of our city. Using these stories as a lens, students were able to understand how these factors have been shaped by the past, affect the present and how they might plan for the future of Calgary.

The land taught the students about Moh'kinstsis, the traditional Blackfoot name for Elbow, referring to the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers. This is the name which we now call the City of Calgary. By acknowledging the importance of the rivers and the land, students began to understand the origins of our city and the ancestors who were here before us, how their lives were shaped by the land and how their stories live with us today.

The built environment, which included architecture, infrastructure, parks and public spaces, taught students about how the urban environment shapes the ways in which we live and services that we can access. Students came to understand how stories about time were told through architectural styles and materials, how roads and sidewalks told stories about what is valued, and how parks and public spaces could leave us in awe and provide us with nature, which we ourselves are a part of.

The people's perspectives illuminated the care and belonging that is present throughout our communities. Students gained perspectives by hearing about Calgary's Chinese community coming together to create a rich and vibrant Chinatown, in spite of discrimination experienced in Calgary and Canada. Students also learned about Annie Davidson, who petitioned to get Alberta's first library built so that the citizens of Calgary could come together in a space to learn. All around our downtown students witnessed community coming together to support each other, which challenged their ideas about what it means to be "in need" and the students wanted to play a part in sharing their kindness with the community.

Evergreen students thoughtfully designed and created hats in their knitting club over their lunch hour, with the intention that they would be left around the city while at 2School, not knowing where they would end up. This random act of kindness highlights compassion and care for our communities and the many people who may be “in need”. It shares the story of how quiet voices and small actions can have big impacts in our city.

So what matters for the future of Calgary? Evergreen classes came to the understanding that what really matters is a deep sense of care and thoughtfulness that everyone’s story matters. By learning from our past, and collaborating and helping each other in the present, we are able to accomplish much more than we can on our own to make the future a better place.

Watch the Global News coverage by following this link:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4732340/calgary-students-knit-hats-homeless/>

St. Phillip School Grade 6

Is Calgary a 21st Century City? An Exploration Into Identity.

Students from St. Phillip collaborated with Kristine Thoreson, founder and director of Junction North Gallery to document and capture their findings throughout their field study. Their photos highlight how Calgary has changed into a vibrant city that encapsulates 21st century ideas and values.

Questions that Students examined:

- How are we rethinking streets and infrastructure?
- What role does Calgary Catholic School District play in educating 21st Century citizens?
- How are we working it nature?
- What are Calgary’s Mixed uses and residential options?
- What our the city’s dynamic, attractive and safe public spaces?



Student Photography

“Place based learning is essential to student (and teacher) engagement. I was in my glory. Allowing them to explore the city and have an experience that was immersive for one whole week will be with them for their whole lives.”

- Teacher

Inspire

Amazing Artwork

Inspired by the urban environment students utilized a variety of art techniques such as printmaking, collage, mixed media and watercolour to represent their understandings.

"I felt, amazed at how much art is in the Beltline, specifically the murals."

- Student



Participating in the 2School program gives students the opportunity to connect to their school in new ways. Many students don't realize that the CBE is more than their school; they are a part of the almost 150,000 students who attend 251 CBE schools. Many students have never spent so much time downtown. Whether it is an examination of the value of public spaces, or how we collaborate within our community, students' worlds become larger when they venture outside the four walls of their classroom. Students felt a greater connection to their school and to their city after attending 2School, building on their own identity formation and enhancing their sense of place-meaning.

2School students understand we all have a responsibility to create the type of community we wish to live in. After attending 2School, many students were able to think of ways they could make a difference in their own community. University School has engaged with their neighbour community to see how they are creating beauty and where students can make a difference. Bridlewood school grade one and grade four students hosted a healthy bake sale and raised \$1224.55. The money was used to buy 28 hairbrushes and combs sets, lip balm, kleenex, toothpaste, wool socks, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, razors, deodorants, bars of soap. Students filled bags with each of these much needed/requested items and included notes in each bag to let the recipients know they were thinking about them and care about them. They have also started the process of collaborating with an artist to design and paint utility boxes in their community. After examining the role of democracy in designing and creating public spaces, Queen Elizabeth has started to explore how they can participate in creating a vibrant public space in their school. Throughout the year, students involved in this experiential method of learning, gained a deeper appreciation for their voice and how they can influence change.

2018 - 19 Engagement Statistics

682 students	7 education assistants
26 classes	2 administrative staff
28 teachers	7 student teachers
7 school board trustees	23 classes from the Calgary Board of Education
362 parent volunteers	3 class from Calgary Catholic School District
27 CBE teaching staff	
90+ school board, city and community experts	



Students are agents of change in their city



Student's meet Chief Usih at the ED Centre

"The journaling techniques as well as questioning techniques (red, yellow, green) were really beneficial in preparing my students for the experience."

- Teacher

Date	Big Idea/Inquiry Question	School	Grade
Sept 17-20 & Oct 9 Sept 24-28	What matters? What makes us human? What does it mean to be human?	Bridlewood	4
Oct 2-5 & 10 Oct 15-19	What is beautiful? Who decides?	University	5/6
Oct 22-25 & Nov 19 Oct 29- Nov 2	How do our experiences shape our identity/ worldview?	John Ware	8
Nov 5-9 Nov 12-16	What matters for the future of Calgary?	Evergreen	3
Nov 26- 29 & Dec 18 Dec 3-6 & 17	How do people in communities affect change?	St Catherine	3
Dec 10-14	What do we value and how can we make a positive impact?	Edgemont	5
Jan 7-11 Jan 14-18 Jan 21-25	What makes a place amazing?	Le Roi Daniels	3
Jan 28-Feb 1	Is Calgary a 21st century city? An investigation into identity.	St. Phillip	6
Feb 4-8 Feb 19-22 & Mar 18 Mar 4-8	What is our ripple effect? How can we create a positive impact?	Kenneth D. Taylor	3
March 11-15 April 1-5	Who can afford to be sustainable? What role does democracy play in responsible, sustainable citizenship?	Queen Elizabeth	7
April 8-12	How does change an innovation affect me, my family, my community and my world?	Ron Southern	1
April 23- 26 & May 14	What is worth preserving?	Roberta Bondar	3
April 29- May 3 May 6-10 May 21-24 & June 3	How do people participate in meeting their needs in a community?	Hugh A. Bennett	1
May 27- 31	I have something to say...Who is listening?	Mckenzie Towne	2

The Community of Connaught/Beltline

Thanks

The 2School program would not have been a success without the region of the Beltline, which includes the communities of Connaught and Victoria Park as well as other businesses and people in Calgary's downtown and inner city neighbourhoods. Calgary is rich with businesses and organizations that are integral to the growth and vitality of our city. Through the lens of public education, community organizations work with schools to help explore their big idea/inquiry questions. These organizations, spaces and people provide rich and thoughtful learning experiences which challenge and push students to take their learning to deeper level of understanding.

Thank you to our partners for devoting their time and expertise to work with our students:

- Alberta School of Ballet
- Avatamsaka Monastery
- Battistella Developments
- Beakerhead
- Blank Page Studio
- The Bow (building)
- Brookfield Place (building)
- cSPACE
- Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS)
- Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD)
 - Calgary Public Library
 - Memorial Park branch
- Central branch (old & new)
- Calgary Opera
- Calgary Chinese Community Association
- Calgary Chinese Cultural Center
- Cenovus Energy
- City Hall School
- City Hall Municipal Building
- The City of Calgary Planning, Development and Assessment Department
- The City of Calgary Public Art, Culture and Recreation Department
- The City of Calgary Police Services
- The City of Calgary Fire Department
- Consul General of Columbia
- The Coup Restaurant
- Connaught School
- CUPS
- Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
- Devonian Gardens
- Dialog Design
- East Village Experience Center
- Eau Claire Market
- Enmax
- East Village Experience Centre
- Feast Letterpress
- Fort Calgary
- Grace Presbyterian Church
- Green T Design Inc.
- Ground Cubed Landscape Architects
- Good Earth
- Good Life Fitness
- Herring-Kiss Gallery
- Inn From the Cold
- Jamieson Place
- Junction North Gallery
- Kit Interior Objects
- Lougheed House
- Masters Gallery Inc.
- Mark on 10th
- The Mustard Seed
- Mountain Equipment Co op
- The National Music Center
- Newzones Gallery
- Nexen Inc.
- Pacific Western Transportation Ltd.
- Phil and Sebastian Coffee
- The Royal
- The Scotiabank Saddledome
- The Social Impact Lab
- Sidewalk Citizen
- Southland Transportation
- Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants
- Uzu Taiyaki
- Vivian Art

Your support has made a difference.

Your support has made a difference. 2School is fortunate to have the continued support of the CBE Board of Trustees, the CCSD Board of Trustees, CBE and CCSD superintendents, as well as many CBE employees who welcome students to their workplace.



A student in reflection

"My journal lets me collect and record my thoughts and feelings about what I observe in the moment."

- Student



learn



explore



partner |



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