

# Annual education telethon showcases student talent

**AMANDA STEPHENSON**  
astephenson@medicinehatnews.com

Medicine Hat's students and teachers are once again preparing for the annual Public Schools Education Fund Telethon, a yearly talent showcase and fundraiser.

The telethon raises money for equipment and school activities not paid for by the provincial government — everything from furniture and library materials to music programming. Last year's telethon netted \$17,000.

The theme of this year's telethon is "Discovering Your Future." Cody Edwards, vice-principal at George Davison School and telethon committee chair, says the event will attempt to shine a light on five different areas of concentration for local schools — scholarship, healthy living, citizenship, 21st century learning, and fine arts.

"The goal is to show a more broad vision of public education in developing tomorrow's citizens and leaders," Edwards says. "So it's not just about academics, but also the things that are going on in areas like healthy living — and there are all kinds of exciting things going on in all these different areas."

Not only do educators get to use the telethon to spotlight the work they've been doing, but individual students get to shine as well. There will be performances by school choirs, bands, and theatre classes, as well as individual performances by students with unique talents — such as one young hip-hop dancer.

"The kids are so critical to it, showing all their different talents in music and the fine arts," Edwards says.

Edwards says the telethon is a very important event for the Education Foundation, and the support of all donors is greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the telethon are split between the Education Foundation general fund and the individual schools that contribute to the broadcast.

"A major contributor over the years in our school has been the choir program," Edwards says.

"So it's nice, because quite often what will happen is the money can go back into our music program."

The 16th annual Public Schools Education Fund Telethon will take place Sunday, March 14 at Crescent Heights High School, and will be broadcast on Shaw Cable from 2 to 6 p.m.

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NEWS

MAR 01 2010

DATE:

Specification: SECOND

FRONT PAGE:

INSIDE PAGE: A5