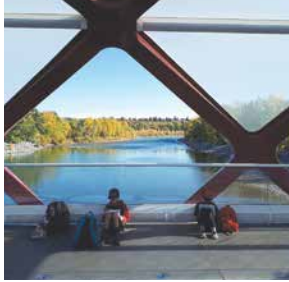


Explore | Connecting with Partners

2School at the Education Centre
2017-18 Annual Report



learn



explore



Introduction



Students examine art and design in communities

"I love how open-ended 2School is. Being in an urban space opens up different ways for kids to explore and connect with the question we are investigating in meaningful ways."

- Teacher

25 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 connections to their learning.

The idea of 2School was first conceived in 2003 when plans were drawn up for a new administrative office "the Education Centre" 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 shaping a community. The urban environment provides endless learning opportunities, including a circa 1908-12 classroom with original CBE furnishings and artifacts.

Campus Calgary/Open Minds, with support of the Calgary Board of Education, continues to lead the development of an exciting education model. With 14 existing sites, the CC/OM model continues to grow and expand. The concept is so popular with schools that sites are often booked a year in advance.

In 2017-18, 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 2017-18 school year.

Learning

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. Participants learn, talk and celebrate the vibrant, rich inner-city neighbourhoods 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 public 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 Programs of Study). 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 2017-18 school year, highlighting our many partners.



Students work in the historic classroom

"Exploring downtown and being exposed to new places, people and atmosphere is a learning experience in itself!"

- Teacher



Students discover and examine the City of Calgary's Utility Box Public Art

"Now that I have started looking for art I see it everywhere. It is all around us!"

- 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 with CBE staff and community partners.

W.O. Mitchell - Grade 2

How Does Art and Design Shape the Environment?

Students from W.O. Mitchell School focused on urban design in Calgary's downtown and how this influences people's community and well-being. They worked with Tomas Jonsson, City of Calgary and artist Eveline Koljin to examine the role that public art has played in telling stories about Calgary, reducing vandalism, and enhancing the urban environment.

Students examined the City of Calgary's utility box public art program to uncover the stories of Calgary's past, as well as stories told through the mediums of printmaking and digital storytelling. Students discovered how Calgary came to be and how it has continued to flourish as a vibrant prairie city. An exploration of the utility boxes on 5th and 6th Avenues S.W. enabled students to see that storytelling could be done with printmaking techniques and how our city's history could be represented through pictures and images.

Eveline Koljin led students through a printmaking activity, inspired by student's experiences of the Beltline community. Students identified, designed and created an art piece that represented a part of the urban environment that they felt told an important story of Calgary. Students were able to learn the skills and techniques of printmaking and learn from an artist firsthand the craft of this type of medium. This week led the students to explore what stories exist in their own community and how they can be shared so that the public can learn the importance of storytelling and art in their community.

Abbeydale - Grade 3

How Can We Use Innovation to Change the World?

Students from Abbeydale School explored many questions around innovation. One of their focuses was, how does Calgary create green spaces? Many cities all over the world have been experimenting with how they can become healthier, greener places for people and animals. Cities are being highly creative and innovative in their uses of designing green space and students discovered that one of the ways Calgary is doing this is by using existing roof tops and turning them into parks or gardens.

Kerry Ross, an architect from Green T Design Inc, based in Calgary, met with students at one of her green roofs located on City Hall's fifth floor to explain her design and reasoning behind the creation. Students learned about:

- the long history of green roofs, dating back to the vikings,
- the science around building a green roof,
- the weather station that collects data on climate and precipitation,
- the native plants that grow on the roof,
- the pollinators they attract and the ways that green or vegetated roofs are sustainable to the environment by reducing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and help cool cities.

As students explored the Beltline and Core they started to pick out green spaces; on roof tops, in public spaces and indoors that had been purposefully designed for people to use. Students also started noticing and thinking about spaces that could be turned into green spaces.



Working with architect Kerry Ross on a green roof

“Students get to know and understand how decisions are made for and about them. It encourages them to recognize that they are supported by a caring community.”

- Student



How does Enmax use creativity to solve energy waste?

“We came with the intention of seeing a light at the end of the tunnel with respect to waste. Calgary’s creativity around solving these issues had inspired us!”

- Teacher

Westgate - Grade 4

How Has Calgary Used Creativity to Solve Waste?

To understand the idea of waste, Westgate students first explored definitions around the word waste, then discovered that it could be broadened to mean anything from space, time, energy, and the more traditional by-product definition. From this they began to connect to local businesses to discover how they were being creative with their waste.

Working with Sebastian Sztabyzb, of Phil & Sebastian Coffee Roasters, students learned how the transportation of coffee was one of the largest producers of waste and the creative ways that they were solving it. Many customers would take the burlap bags for free and repurpose them into other items. Students also learned that all of the cups were made from plant-based material and could be composted as well as all of the used coffee grounds.

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) highlighted their waste reduction strategy by sharing their semi-annual dumpster dive with the students. Twice a year, employees don protective gear and sort through their own dumpster to see how well they are doing with waste making its way into the correct bin. Students experienced firsthand ways that MEC uses to sort their company’s waste and educate their employees on reducing their ecological footprint.

Through learning about waste solutions from local business all over Calgary, Westgate students began to document and collect information that they could use for their own school’s composting program. From the signs placed over the garbage cans at Phil & Sebastian’s East Village location to the collecting and coding of waste at MEC, Westgate students were inspired and interested, in getting their own program up and running.

Abbeydale - Grade 5

How Do We Create Belonging?

Abbeydale students' year began with an exploration into the warm and cool places in their lives. Warm places were spaces where they felt safe, comfortable and confident, whereas cool places were uncomfortable and less secure spaces. This led them to a discussion around how communities and places can have positive or negative effects on people. It has also caused them to question the role of communities in fostering a sense of belonging in its citizens.

Urban design was one of the ways students took up their questions around belonging while at 2School. Combining their artist in residency photography project, students captured ways in which Calgary's urban design and infrastructure fostered belonging and helped citizens. Abbeydale students discovered that crosswalks with audible signals, curb ramps and lines or bumps on sidewalks to indicate the beginning or end of a road were all ways that design created inclusion in cities.

Students also met with Robson Yuen, a member of the Calgary Chinese Cultural Association, who highlighted how Calgary and Canada both fostered and hindered belonging to Chinese newcomers. Through seeing and hearing the history of Calgary's Chinatown through experiencing murals, students were able to gain a better understanding of the role that communities play in welcoming newcomers and helping them feel a sense of care and belonging.

By exploring Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, students began to investigate the complexities around individuals meeting their basic needs and the importance of getting our basic needs met to enable further growth and motivation. Abbeydale students worked with CUPS and the Mustard Seed to explore ways in which our city was working with the community to create warm places in our city and a sense of community and social connectedness while meeting people's basic needs. Abbeydale students reflected that the needs of their community had similarities with the downtown communities and began to investigate ways that they could foster a greater sense of belonging in their own school and community.



Uncovering the stories of belonging in Calgary's Chinatown

"I used to think that downtown was scary and not for kids. Now I think that downtown is exciting, filled with possibilities and invites everyone to join in."

- Student

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.

“My favourite part of the day was when we got to journal and I was able to practise my sketching skills.”

- 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 an organization of more than 120,000 students who attend 245 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.

Abbeydale School is working on how they can foster belonging in their own community through designing Little Free Pantries and working with local groups and organizations to strengthen and build relationships.

W.O. Mitchell students are turning their composting program into a vegetable growing program after learning about urban gardens and our cities' green spaces.

Westgate School, after exploring the Mission District and uncovering the stories of French settlers in Calgary, as well as delving into Calgary's history, have begun writing a newspaper. The newspapers will be distributed throughout their community to raise awareness to the rich stories that are a part of Calgary's history and are part of our identity as Calgarians.

Throughout the year, students involved in this experiential method of learning, gained a deeper appreciation for their voice and how they can influence change.

2School by the numbers | 2017 - 18 Statistics

682 students	7 education assistants
27 classes	2 administrative staff
29 teachers	7 student teachers
7 school board trustees	26 classes from the Calgary Board of Education
362 parent volunteers	1 class from Calgary Catholic School District
26 CBE teaching staff	
90+ school board, city and community experts	



Students are agents of change in their city

We're proud of our accomplishments this year



One of the many public spaces that include nature and art in our city

“Art is important to our city. It adds life and makes you think about why you like it or not. It sparks conversation and questioning.”

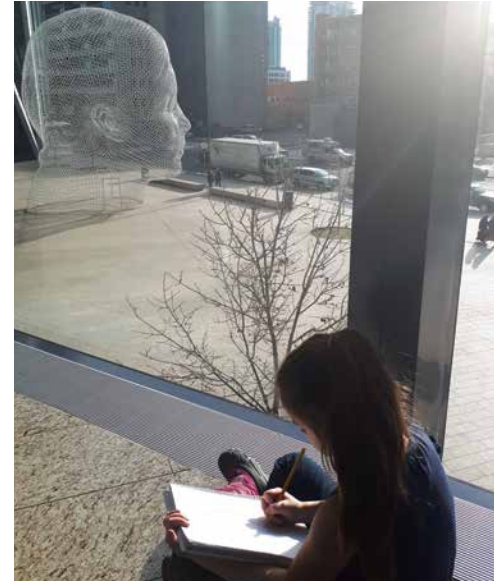
- Student

Date	Big Idea/Inquiry Question	School	Grade
Sept 25 - 29	Responsible citizenship? What does that mean?	Deer Run	4
Oct 2 - 6 Oct 23 - 27	How can we use innovation to change the world?	Abbeydale	3
Oct 10 - 13 & 18 Oct 30 - Nov 3 Nov 6 - 10 Nov 20 - 24	How can we plan future communities to meet the needs of all citizens?	Stanley Jones	1/2
Nov 27 - Dec 1 Dec 4 - 7 & 19	What is change?	Royal Oak	2
Dec 11 - 15 Jan 15 - 19	How do cities foster belonging?	Abbeydale	5
Jan 8 - 12 Jan 22 - 25 & Feb 12	How is Calgary using creativity to solve issues around waste?	Westgate	4
Jan 29 - Feb 2	Follow your path	Our Lady of the Assumption	7, 8, 9
Feb 5 - 9	How has Calgary been “marked?”	Peter Lougheed	5
Feb 20 - 23	Does Calgary have history?	Westgate	4
Feb 26 - Mar 2	How has Calgary been “marked?”	Peter Lougheed	5
Mar 5 - 9	Are cities sites of nature and ecology?	W.O. Mitchell	4
Mar 12 - 16	How does art and design shape our environment?	W.O. Mitchell	2
Mar 20	Does Calgary have history?	Westgate	4
April 3 - 6 & 18 April 9 - 13	Everyone has a story	McKenzie Lake	2
April 23 - 27	Brainiacs: How can diverse thinking create change?	Mayland Heights	6
April 30 - May 4 May 7 - 11 May 14 - 17 & 28 May 22 - 25 & 30	How do people create a healthy community?	James Short Memorial	1
June 3 - 7	How can we be good ancestors?	Collingwood	4

The 2School program would not be a success without the region of the Beltline, which includes the communities of Connaught and Victoria Park. Connaught and Victoria Park are rich with businesses and organizations that are integral to the growth and vitality of Calgary. Through the lens of public education, community organizations work with school to help explore their big idea/inquiry questions. These organizations 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:

- Avatamsaka Monastery
- The Bow (building)
- Brookefield Place (building)
- Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD)
- Calgary Chinese Community Association
- Calgary Fire Department
- Calgary Opera
- Calgary Police Service
- Calgary Public Library
 - Memorial Park branch
 - Central branch (old & new)
- Cenovus Energy
- City of Calgary
 - Planning, Development and Assessment Department
 - Public Art Culture and Recreation Department
- City Hall Municipal Building
- City Hall School
- Connaught School
- Consul General of Columbia
- The Coup Restaurant
- Decidedly Jazz Danceworks
- Devonian Gardens
- Dialog Design
- East Village Experience Centre
- Enmax
- Fort Calgary
- Good Earth
- Grace Presbyterian Church
- Green T Design Inc.
- Ground Cubed Landscape Architects
- Herrer Kiss Gallery Contemporary Art
- Inn from the Cold
- Jamieson Place
- Kit Interior Objects
- Lougheed House
- Mark On 10th
- Masters Gallery Inc.
- Mountain Equipment Co-op
- The Mustard Seed
- National Music Centre
- Newzones Galley of Contemporary Art
- Nexen Inc.
- Phil & Sebastian Coffee Roasters
- The Royal (building)
- Scotiabank Saddledome
- Sidewalk Citizen
- Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants
- Southland Transportation



A student in reflection

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

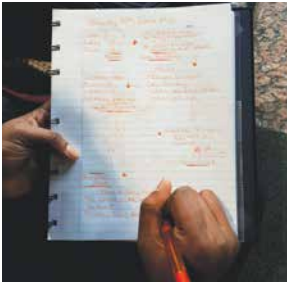
- Student

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.



discover



engage



partner |



2School at the Education Centre
1221 - 8 Street S.W., Calgary, AB T2R 0L4
t | 403-817-7247
mbmontgomery@cbe.ab.ca
cbe.ab.ca/ccom

We are proud of the 2School program and our students. All photos are of students who attended 2School.