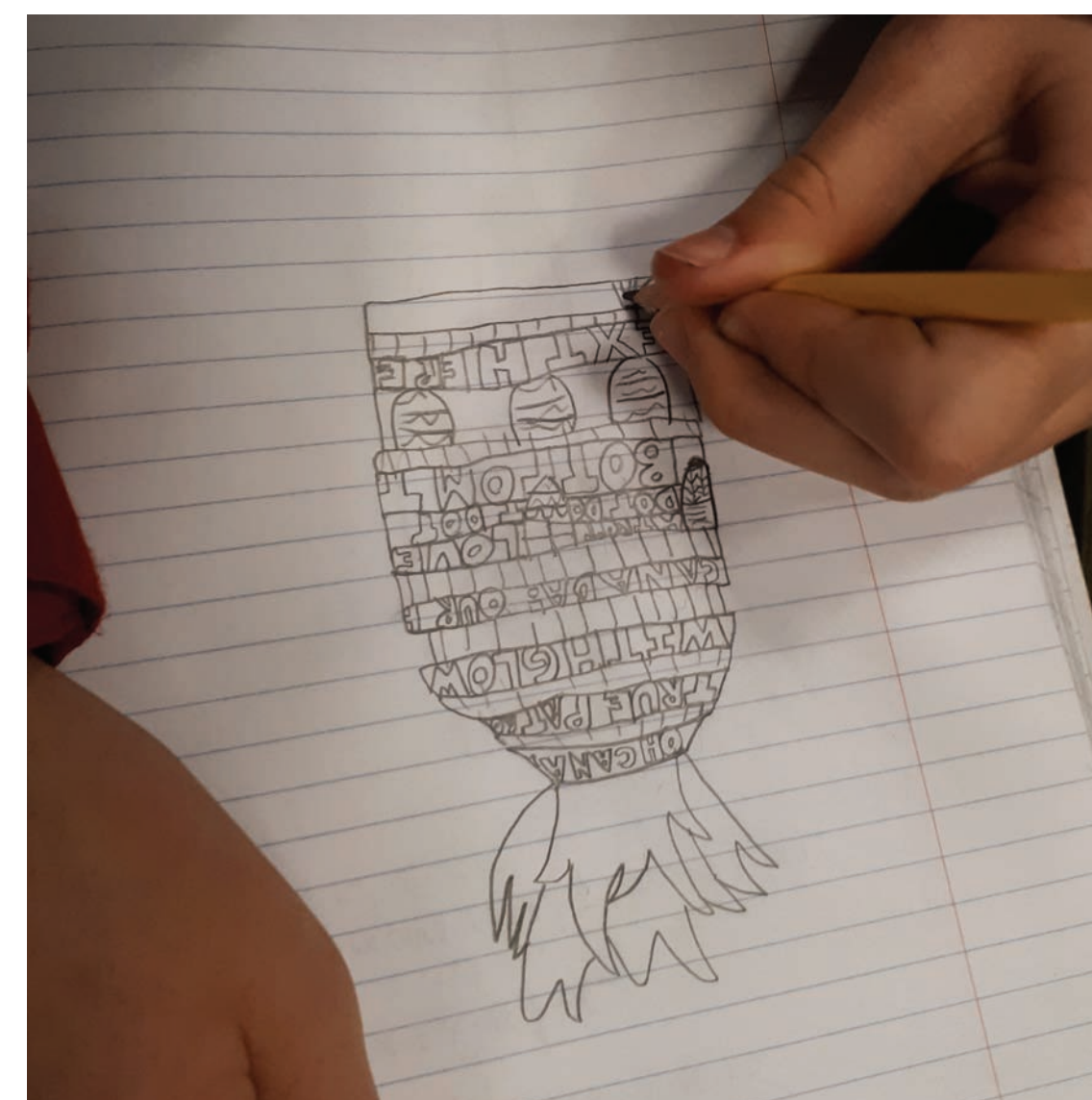


"I have always struggled with how to incorporate journalling into my lessons and curriculum. I feel that I want to include a journal every year now!"

Grade 4 Teacher



"Students have learned that they have a voice, no matter how young they are, and that adults in government respect their opinions." Grade 2-3 Teacher



"We could see everything by our own eyes."

Grade 5-6 Student



"I learned lots of things by getting to see them and touch them rather than just listening. I got to see things I'd never seen before, and it got me interested more in downtown." Grade 5 Student



CITY HALL SCHOOL

How does the municipal government affect my everyday life? How can I speak up and make a difference? What's going on downtown? At City Hall School, thousands of students have discovered that they have the right to be at City Hall and ask questions.

City Hall School began as a pilot program in January 2000 -- back when Al Duerr was Calgary's mayor. Starting with six elementary-school classes, coordinator Diane Murray quickly built an exciting full-time program that was embraced by the mayor, councillors, and all sorts of experts in government and in the community. Students (and their parents) have discovered amazing sights, sounds, and stories about their own city, from the downtown core right to their own neighbourhood.

Since its second year, City Hall School has been a full-time Campus Calgary/Open Minds site, in partnership with the City's Calgary

Neighbourhoods department. Students have learned about bridge design, homelessness, bike lanes, urban planning, poverty, elections, food waste, and hundreds of other topics. They have explored the hustle-bustle of downtown and marvelled at the construction of buildings such as Studio Bell, the new Calgary Public Library, and Telus Sky. Construction workers stop to wave and shout at them to stay in school! Classes have touched and observed public art -- and learned more from City experts, security guards, and the artists themselves. They have quizzed our various mayors, as well as many councillors.

No week is typical. Students might attend a noon-hour concert in a historic church. They might compare two playgrounds in East Village. Sometimes they sketch the Calgary skyline from the tranquil banks of the Bow River or from high in the Bow Tower. All is possible.

