



In partnership with:



2022-2023

City Hall School Report to Partners





A Fresh Perspective

City Hall School is back to normal programming. Over 600 students entered the City Hall School classroom in the Municipal Building. Students were excited to journey downtown and explore the City of Calgary. Their journey began on a city transit charter bus. Many students were on their first field trip since the pandemic. Students had the opportunity to gain a fresh perspective of Calgary. Journaling was used to assist students to make sense of the world around them.

This year, the city was explored through diverse lenses, including artistically,

historically, naturally, architecturally, city services, and community services. They participated in exciting moments, such as watching concerts at the Central Library, exploring an ice cream factory, and watching a TV show being made.

Each class used a big question to inform their week at City Hall School. The big questions influenced the activities, community walks, and the experts that students met. This year, the main themes were student voice, being an active citizen, and building community.

“This experience has opened our eyes up to the opportunities that exist in our downtown and our more immediate communities for learning about the community as a whole.”

~ Grade 6 Teacher

How does City Hall School work?



Catching a media scrum outside the council chambers

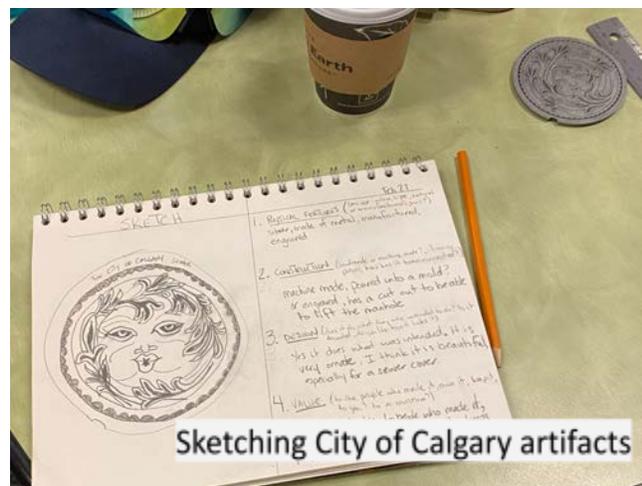
City Hall School is a five-day field study that is jointly run by The City of Calgary's Recreation and Social Programs business unit and Campus Calgary/Open Minds.

Teachers applied to City Hall School in May 2022. All Calgary schools are welcome, including public, Catholic, independent, or charter schools. City Hall School is a full-year experience that is guided by a big question or provocation. This question connects the students' work at school to their week downtown. Teachers participate in many professional development opportunities

throughout the year to further their teaching practice and add to their students' experience.

Every week is personalized to each class, their big question, and their needs. Two months before their time downtown, there is a planning meeting with teachers to set intentions and expectations.

Every class was able to meet Mayor Gondok and their school's councillor. Students had many questions about their jobs and questions to help them understand current events. Students learned from many experiences, including City of Calgary experts, community experts, community walks, observation, and journaling.



Sketching City of Calgary artifacts

City Hall School's mission is to offer a look into the municipal government, how decisions are made, how the city is run, and how students can be active citizens.



Exploring the Anti-Racism Strategic Plan display

Students, like all citizens, want to know that their voice is valued. They are excited to learn that even though they cannot vote, they can still impact city decisions. City Hall School classes had opportunities to participate in public engagement with the city. Students had a chance to give opinions about restructuring the School Resource Officer program and the Explore Your Street Survey in the engage portal. Student voice was heard during their time with Mayor Gondek and city councillors. Students asked about the new arena, homelessness, and issues in their neighbourhoods.

“It was really awesome to get to see and learn about downtown Calgary, because it isn’t a place that I go to often”

~ Grade 6 Student



Going back in time with a timeline in the Arts Commons



Observing the city view with a blanket of smoke

Exploring the downtown community through walks is an important part of City Hall School. Students further developed their powers of observation through noticing with all senses and wondering about what they are experiencing. These observations lead to deeper understandings of public spaces and how it affects citizens in different ways. Students used empathy for others to investigate public spaces and their purposes. They then thought of ways to make these spaces safe, welcoming, and engaging.

Finding Stories in the Community

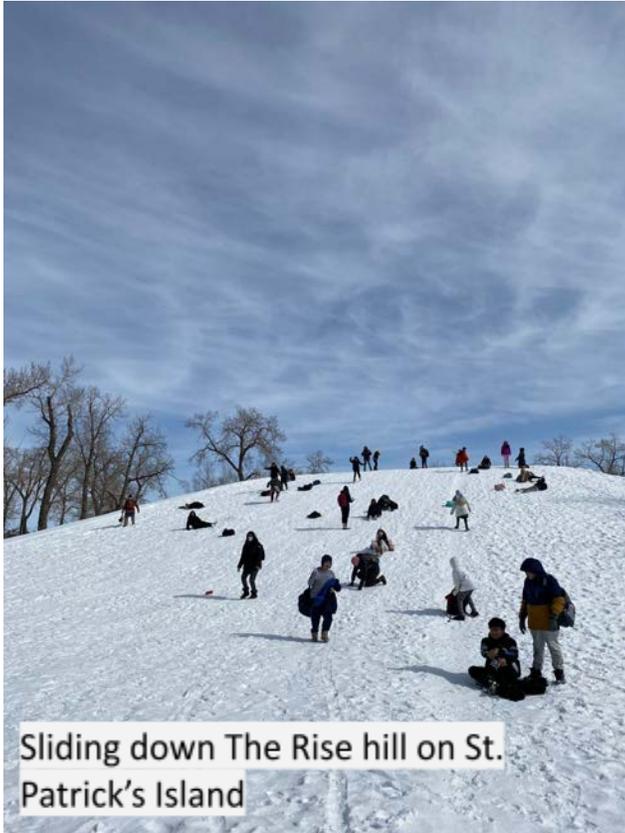
While students walked through the downtown community, they discovered history and culture in unexpected places. They found artifacts and art that tell stories that represented all citizens in Calgary.

Students begin their time at City Hall School walking past the Residential School memorial on the steps of the Municipal Building. Seeing it sparks questions that lead to discussions about residential schools. This initiates students' thoughts and actions about truth and reconciliation. While journaling by the river, students learned about the confluence's importance in Indigenous culture. Students reflected on the natural area and the importance of preserving nature in the inner city.

While walking through Chinatown, students discovered a story through the murals and design elements. Students learned about Chinese culture and the history of Chinese immigrants in Calgary. The murals represented the contributions of Chinese immigrants and the darker history of how Canada treated them. By seeing this community, students realize how important it is for all citizens to broaden their understanding of different cultures.

The Beltline Urban Mural Project offers different perspectives for students to consider. Students enjoyed art created by artists from around the world. Each mural tells a story that is important to Calgary's story and helps students to find connections to their own lives and identities.





Sliding down The Rise hill on St. Patrick's Island



Having a jumping competition in the Questionairium at the Central Library

Finding Joy in Calgary



Participating in Winter Walk Day with City of Calgary employees



Learning about ice cream at Village Ice Cream



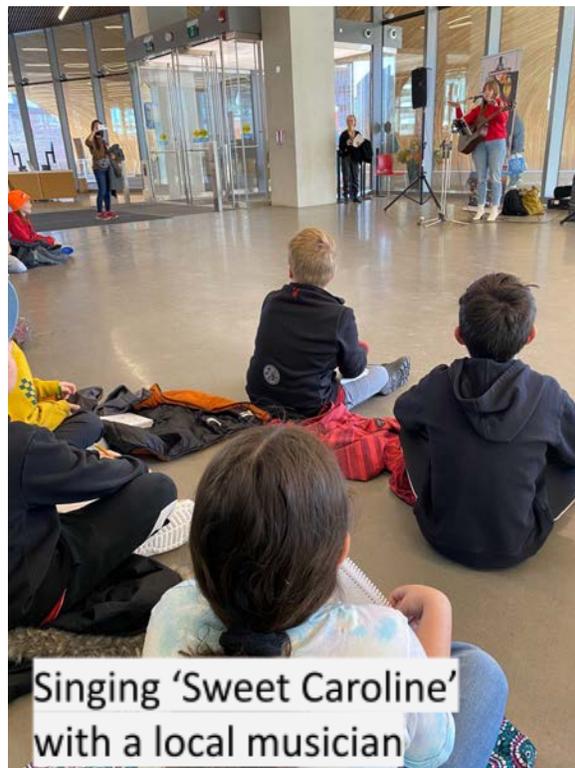
Volunteer shares about geology in downtown buildings



Taking the C-Train



Mayor Gondek surprises students on the bus ride home



Singing 'Sweet Caroline' with a local musician

Celebrating Student Learning



After their week downtown, **Lake Bonavista School** students understood how they were old enough to make change. They created change in their community by doing a veterans' pet food drive and being part of the Student Vote during the provincial elections. These projects were student led and involved their whole school.



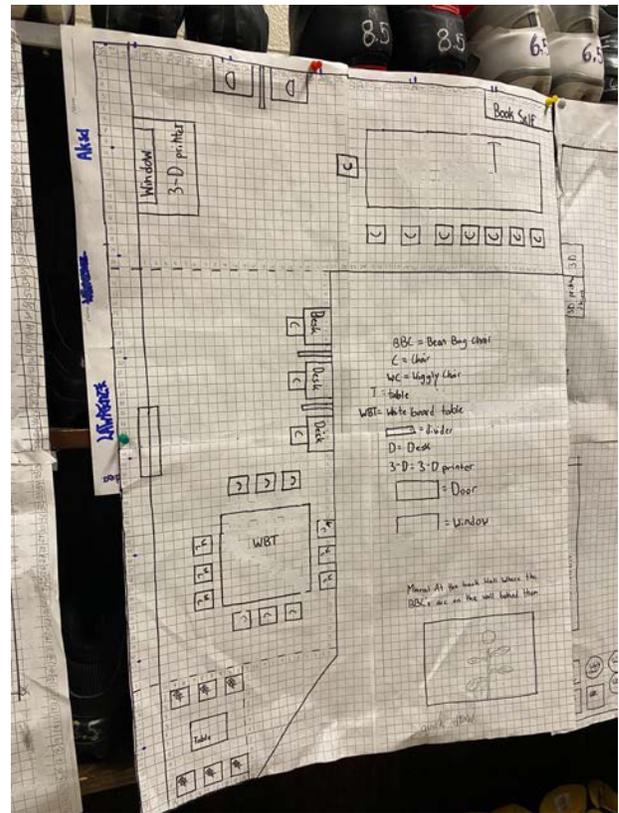
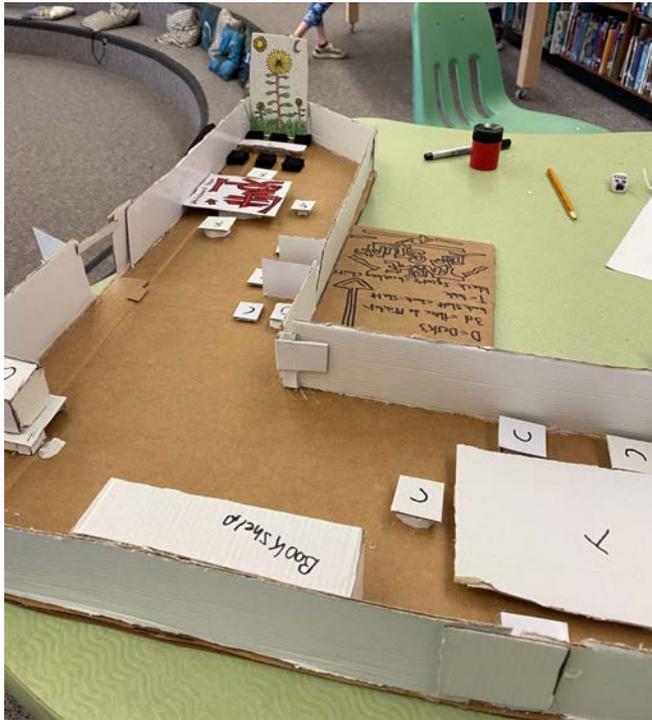
"Voters should learn about the people who are running and what they stand for before voting. Being informed matters."
~ Grade 6 student



Lake Bonavista students created public art for their school garden that was inspired by Cassie Suche's art, Touch Traces, in East Village. They used their fingerprints to paint a donated rain barrel.



Students exploring Touch Traces by Cassie Suche



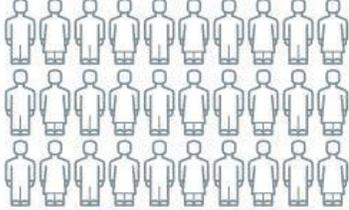
Students from **Dr. E.W. Coffin School** were tasked by their principal to redesign a breakout room at their school. Their designs were inspired by their time downtown at City Hall School. Students added flexible work spaces after seeing the different spaces in the Municipal Building and the Central Library. After seeing all the public art downtown, students knew their breakout rooms needed art to create a calm and welcoming area.

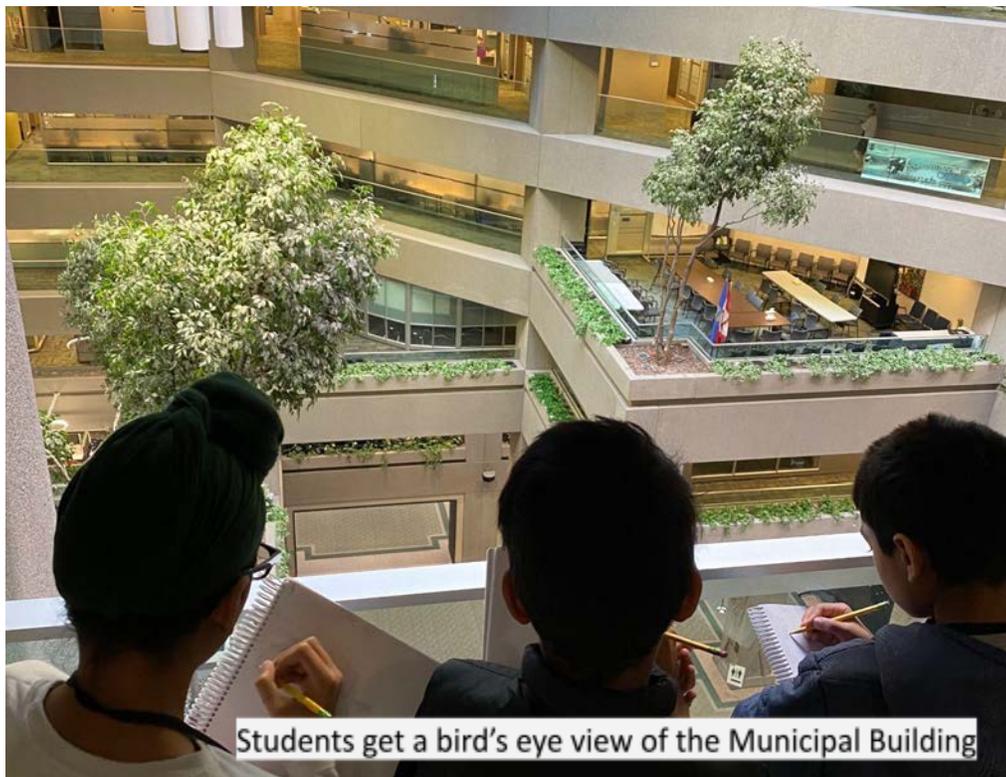


City Hall School Schedule 2022-2023

Week	School	Grade	Ward	Big Question/Provocation
September 19-21 & 26-27	Manmeet Singh Bhullar	5/6	5	What is the relationship between government and citizenship?
October 3-6 & 18	Manmeet Singh Bhullar	5/6	5	What is the relationship between government and citizenship?
October 11-14 & 17	Alice Jamieson	6/7	9	What is my power?
October 24-28	St. Pius X	6	7	Voices of Calgary
October 31-November 4	Lake Bonavista	5/6	14	Old enough to...make change.
November 7-10 & 21	Lake Bonavista	5/6	14	Old enough to...make change.
November 14-18	Lake Bonavista	5/6	14	Old enough to...make change.
November 28-December 2	Vista Heights	6	10	Making Life Better
December 5-9	Westgate	6	6	How does perspective build my identity?
December 12-16	Westgate	6	6	How does perspective build my identity?
January 16-20	Ranchlands	5	2	Why does it matter?
January 23-27	Ranchlands	5	2	Why does it matter?
January 30-February 2 & 13	Richmond	5/6	8	How do we exercise our voice to become an agent of change within our communities?
February 6-10	Richmond	5/6	8	How do we exercise our voice to become an agent of change within our communities?
February 22-24 & March 13-14	Dr. EW Coffin	5/6	4	What does it mean to be Calgarian?
February 27-March 3	Dr. EW Coffin	5/6	4	What does it mean to be Calgarian?
March 6-9 & 15	Monterey Park	6	10	Aisinai'pi (It is pictured, it is written)
March 20-24	St. Joseph	6	7	How can members of the community work together for a common good?
April 3-6 & 11	Monterey Park	6	10	Aisinai'pi (It is pictured, it is written)
April 12-14 & 18-19	Buchanan	5/6	4	What can we do to protect and promote urban nature in our city?
April 24-28	Buchanan	5/6	4	What can we do to protect and promote urban nature in our city?
May 1-4 & June 8	Hawkwood	4	2	How do you achieve balance in an ever-changing world?
May 8-12	Hawkwood	4	2	How do you achieve balance in an ever-changing world?
May 15-18 & 23	Hawkwood	4	2	How do you achieve balance in an ever-changing world?
May 30-June 2 & 5	Hawkwood	4	2	How do you achieve balance in an ever-changing world?

2022-2023 Statistics

 <p>664 Students</p>	<p>25 Classes</p>  <p>23 from Calgary Board of Education 2 from Calgary Catholic School District</p>
<p>26 Teachers 5 School Administration 9 School Staff 10 Student-Teachers 184 Volunteers</p> 	<p>9 Council members plus Mayor Gondek</p>  <p>14 Community Experts</p>  <p>24 City of Calgary Experts</p>



Students get a bird's eye view of the Municipal Building

Thank you to The City of Calgary

Thank you to all The City of Calgary staff who shared their expertise with City Hall School.

Building & Architecture

Shawna Cochrane

Calgary Community

Standards

Hayley Ashton

Bradley Johnson

Calgary Transit

Mandeep Dhese

Amanvir Sarao

Jaskaran Singh

City Clerk's Office

Shauna Noble

Trisa Zimmerman

City Manager's Office

David Duckworth

Jo Jacques

Community Planning

Lisette Burga Ghersi

Geneva Chaudhary

Kelsey L. Cohen

Melanie Messier

Jolene C. Moran

Maha Safwan

Lucas Sherwin

Community Strategies

Dejana Knih

Arevik Tokmajyan

Councillors and Staff

Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra

Councillor Andre Chabot

Councillor Peter Demong

Councillor Raj Dhaliwal

Councillor Richard Pootmans

Councillor Courtney Walcott

Councillor Terry Wong

Councillor Jennifer Wyness

Climate & Environment

Aaron Boulton-Chaykowski

Roberta Waddell

Kyle White

General Manager's Office

Katie Black

Barb Doyscher

Facility Management

Gyula Danka

Parks & Recreation

Goutam Kuwar

Indigenous Relations Office

Stewart Breaker

Harold Horsefall

Sherri Kellock

Devin Siebold

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Jyoti Gondek

Amalie Ramcharan

Catherine Seymour

Jenelle Wohlberg

Public Engagement

Dave Pascut

Catriona White

Mobility Safety

Jacquelyn Oriold

Municipal Building Security

Recreation & Social

Programming

Rasheedat Ajeigbe

Debbie Belgrave

Zoe Brennan

Arlas Gillies

Lina Lopez

Wendy Sliworsky

Waste & Recycling

Michelle Dias

"I really liked learning about all of the things that the municipal government does for citizens, so that they can make Calgary a great place to live"

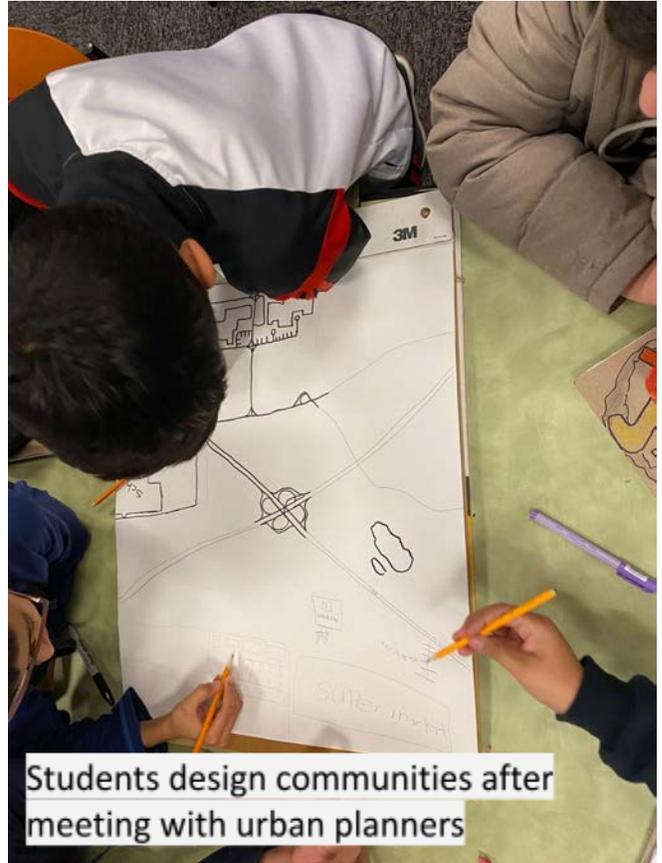
~ Grade 5 Student

"The city provides us many things and all of them work together very nicely. They come up with really good ideas when working together and being able to understand the community"

~ Grade 4 Student



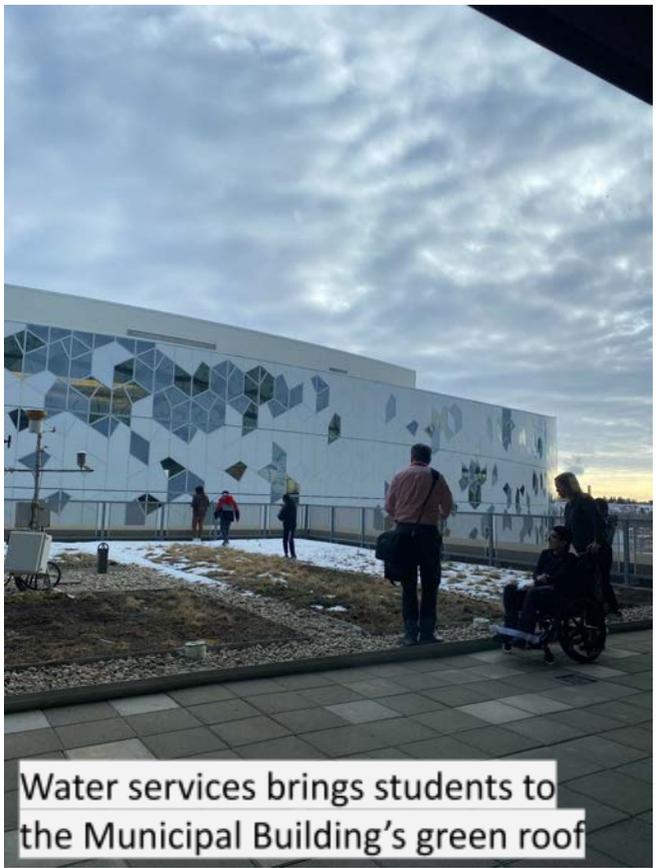
Waste and Recycling showing students how to sort through waste



Students design communities after meeting with urban planners



A city architect demonstrates how difficult it is to design a building with one view



Water services brings students to the Municipal Building's green roof

Thank you, Calgary

Thank you to all the Calgary community members who shared their expertise with City Hall School.

Arts Commons: Jennifer Roberts, Karen Youngberg

Barclay Street Real Estate Ltd: Nicky Lang, Sarah Lisson, Luke Stiles

Calgary Arts Development: Chelsea Boida, Heather Campbell, Aaron Chatha, Parisa Radmanesh

Calgary Board of Education: Calvin Davies, Andrea Holowka, Darlene Unruh, Christopher Usih

Calgary Catholic School District: Bryan Szumlas, Helmut Kaiser, Kevin DeForge, Kirk Linton

Calgary Public Library: Christine Hayes, Kristen Duke

Calgary Municipal Land Corporation: Allison Davelaar, Jack Olson

Campus Calgary/Open Minds: Marta Albertin, Natasha McKay, Jennifer Meredith

Fridays for Future: Sasha Adamova, Anastacia Raniuk

Good Neighbour Community Market: Alice Lam

Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth (USAY): IndigiTRAILS

Village Ice Cream: Beth Allison, Billy Friley

Wood's Homes: Laura Camacho, Fintry Mookan, Janet Stewart



Conclusion

City Hall School brings awareness to hundreds of Calgary students each school year. Students often only experience certain parts of their community and miss out on spaces outside of their norm. Exploring Calgary's downtown community helps build active citizens as they experience things they have never seen before. Through these experiences, students start to gain opinions that lead to conversations back at school, which lead to community projects. Students were amazed by the tallest buildings, our natural areas, public art, and the central library. Teachers gained the confidence to expand their classrooms into their school's community. City Hall School participants continue to leave the five-day field study with a new sense of citizenship.

"City Hall School taught us that we all have the power to make positive changes in our community and city. We just need to find something that we are passionate about and get to work."
~ Grade 6 Student

