



Posted: April 17, 2015

Former astronaut 'very down to Earth'



Two students from J. J. O'Neill Catholic School have won national recognition in a photo contest.

Blake Dowling won the Elementary Challenge and Karter Brett received an Honourable Mention in the 'Bondar School Challenge'. Since September, Christine Roth's Grade 3 class has been participating in the contest, which helps children connect with the natural world through the lens of a camera. The foundation loaned a class set of cameras to use for the project and provided basic instruction in the use of a camera and composition. The students took walks to local parks, strolled through the Peace Garden and took a trip to the Frink Centre to find inspiration and subjects for their photos. After the fall session, students choose their favourite photograph and wrote an artist statement about their work and the photos were submitted for judging.

Blake and his teacher attended the Roberta Bondar Foundation's gallery opening reception for the Savannah Survivors exhibit at First Canadian Place in Toronto, where Blake's work was displayed alongside Dr. Bondar's! Dr. Bondar gave a short address at the opening and commended all the student's for their hard work and dedication to the natural world. She spoke with each student and signed a copy of her book for the school.

The students' work will be displayed at a gallery show on Wednesday, May 6th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. during Catholic Education Week.