

# Students Spruce Up National Forest Week

*Young environmentalists make a change*

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St. John XXIII Times



Grade 6 student, Maggie Peterson, explaining the importance of trees to students of St. John XXIII. Photograph provided by Kelsey Rolan, St. John XXIII Times.

**Leaf it to the Grade Sixes!** Last week, students of St. John XXIII delivered a National Forest Week presentation to the whole school. The school community gathered in the gymnasium to learn more about and gain a greater understanding of Alberta's forests, as well, to learn the significance and need of forests in our world.

"This was great timing for the school presentation as National Forest Week usually starts in the first week of May. It was great to see that the presentation was student-led and it was a complete success," said Grade 6 homeroom teacher, Mrs. Bujas.

In the gymnasium, the Grade Sixes presented a PowerPoint presentation and a short video clip explaining the history of National Forest Week. According to the Grade Sixes, National Forest Week began in 1926, which was originally called Forest Fire Prevention Week. In addition, the children provided visuals such as posters and

dioramas to show that forests covers about 60 percent of the province and that they provide homes for wildlife.

"The dioramas were cool and interesting! I really liked the one that showed people hiking and camping. I learned that forests provide people with recreational areas," said Grade 5 student, Matthew Creston.

The Grade 6 students further explained the importance of forests. Forestry is Alberta's third largest industry. Forests provide food and more than 5000 products for human and/or animal use.

"Learning about Trees and Forests in our Science class has allowed me to have a greater appreciation for our natural environment. Considering that trees help provide clean water and air for us, we need to do our part in preserving trees and ensure that we respect Mother Nature," said Vivian Renato, Grade 6 student.

Mr. Kraus, principal of St. John XXIII, commended the Grade Six students for all their hard work in putting the presentation together. According to Mr. Kraus, he plans to create a student Green Thumb Club where students will help pick up litter on school grounds, as well as, help collect juice boxes and milk cartons within the school. Green Thumb Club will begin at the end of the month.

As a conclusion to the Trees and Forest Science Unit, and a celebration for completing the National Forest Week presentation, the Grade Sixes will be taking a fieldtrip to the John Janzen Nature Center early next week. In addition, a variety of special events are planned this upcoming weekend in many communities to celebrate National Forest Week. Please visit [www.edmontoncityevents.ca](http://www.edmontoncityevents.ca) to learn more about National Forest Week activities that are happening in the city.