

# High school fundraising for Washington trip

## Students seeking community support to keep the long-running Holocaust and Human Rights program going

### Bugle-Observer staff

For close to a decade, Woodstock High School's Holocaust and Human Rights program has offered an extra-curricular option for Grade 9 students.

"Each year up to 40 students have the opportunity to join this program which educates them about Human Rights issues past and present," explains WHS teacher Correen Barrett. "Students then travel in the spring to Washington, D.C. to see the many monuments that stand as a testament to those who fought against injustice.

She cited Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King as examples.

She said the big visit of the trip to Washington is the day spent at the Holocaust museum. Students are given four hours to make their way through the four-level museum to see the artifacts for themselves.

Students are also given the opportunity to hear a survivor speak about their experiences during the Jewish persecution.

Barrett noted the program is a huge commitment each year by staff and students, as all work is volunteer and done after school hours.

She explained students must attend 16 hours of curriculum study, volunteer for 15 hours in the community and raise funds to cover at least half the cost of the program.

Barrett added Woodstock High School staff has strived to make fundraising a big part of this event in an effort to make it accessible to as many students as possible.

"This year we are starting with a Pampered Chef Catalogue sale and bingo night," noted Barrett.

She said local rep Angela Parks has partnered with the program for a second year in a row to offer the event.

"Last year the turn out was huge and we hope to match or surpass that this year," said Barrett.

The event will be held Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. at the high school.

The cost is \$10, which includes three cards. Additional cards can be purchased for \$5 for a set of 3.

"We have over \$200 in pampered chef prizes to give away and then a grand prize round," said Barrett, noting the value of the grand prize round depends on the proceeds at the door. Last year the value was over \$500.

Another major fundraising event currently underway is the sale of raffle tickets.

"We have six gift baskets made up of gift cards," said Barrett.

Raffle tickets are being sold by students for \$2 or three for \$5 until Oct. 10. The draw will be Oct. 12.

"All of this would not be possible without the sponsorship and coordination provided by the Asper Foundation in Winnipeg," said Barrett. "Each and every year they coordinate the logistics of this program for thousands of teens across the country, and cover half the cost of the program."

She said program is offered for approximately three weeks each spring with upwards of 300 teens per week attending the program from across Canada.

"This is a wonderful program that we want to continue to offer but we need the help of the community to keep this program running and keeping it available to as many students as possible," said Barrett.

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SEPTEMBER 25,  
2012