



## Netagamiou School Students Share **the Gift of Art** for the Benefit of Haiti

Netagamiou School primary and secondary students joined other students from schools all across Quebec in a very special creative project called "The Gift of Art". The "GIFT of ART" is an art project designed by Painting a New Painting (PNMW) to raise awareness about important global issues for students and schools in Canada and to raise funds in order to help provide education around the world with Free the Children (FTC) / Enfants Entraide organization. Michael Osborne, well known Lower North Shore artist mentored the Netagamiou students through the creation of their mural.

Students share the meaning behind their mural: "This mural that we had to design and paint was about kids having freedom and rights. Some of the things that we put on the mural were: a plane, doves, a kid playing soccer, a kid working in a field. The mural also included a rainbow, a heart, totem pole, factory and a face. We had the plane to represent freedom, the dove is to represent peace, and the kid playing soccer and the kid working in the field are to represent kids having rights and kids not having rights. Happiness was represented on our mural by the rainbow, the heart was to represent love, and cultural rights were represented by the totem pole. The factory was to show that some kids in the world don't have the right to go to school so they are forced to work. The face was to show a happy kid with rights."

This project was a great opportunity for youth to take a leadership role as active, engaged and productive citizens in the global community. We are so very proud of all the Quebec students who shared their talent, time and creative spirit for the benefit of children and adults in other communities around the world, especially in light of the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti. Congratulations to everyone involved, be proud of your contribution!

On Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-10:00 pm, Painting a New World will host its first multicultural event at the Montreal Olympic Stadium. The event will feature murals produced by participating schools, including Netagamiou School, as well as the artwork of artists from Africa and Andre and Agnes Chatelain, Painting a New World founders. This will be a great opportunity to see the amazing murals from other schools, make the project visible, establish new contacts and most importantly all proceeds will be contributed to international relief efforts for Haiti. Check out the following website for more details about the project and upcoming event: [www.paintinganewworld.com](http://www.paintinganewworld.com). If you can... please attend the event in Montreal!