



Chalk Talk

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PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Subscribers,

As for many of my generation, Kindergarten represented a big transition in our lives — our introduction to the outside world. Though it now common for small children to spend a large part of their day outside of the home in day-care, for me, it was the first opportunity to interact with other kids, all of them my age, where I was in the care of an adult who was not a parent or close relation.

At age 5, I was there to LEARN. Or perhaps I was there to learn how to learn. Either way the approach was decidedly not academic. I recall donning an imaginary ‘thinking cap’ which had magical powers — a technique which helped me remember my numbers while counting, concentrate on the plot during story-telling and unlocked my creative imagination. Once my painting smock was in place, designed to protect my crisply starched cotton dress, I became a budding folk artist, often drawing pictures of trees, the sun, my house, and stick people with crayons and sometimes creating abstract masterpieces with finger paint.



So much has changed since I was a child, but school remains that place where we come together to learn about our world, develop our social skills and imagine who we

can be. This week’s issue features imaginative young people whose artwork expresses how they view their world and the Olympic Games.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers’ resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

Mary Kovack

Visa ‘Olympics of the Imagination’ - Winners!



Earlier this year, **Visa** invited young people between the ages of 10-14 to participate in the **Visa Olympics of the Imagination Art Competition** for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games which take place in August.

Students were asked to create an original drawing based on the theme of this year’s Olympic Games—**One World, One Dream.**

Four first prize winners — representing Western Canada, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada — won a trip for themselves and a parent or legal guardian to attend the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as guests of Visa.



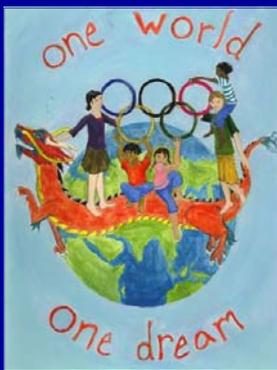
As part of its third Olympic Games, the 2008 **Visa Olympics of the Imagination** art competition generated nearly 1,400 submissions from across Canada. [See winning entries below. Larger images will be available soon at www.visa.ca/voi/gallery.]

Artwork was judged by a panel comprised of Marnie McBean, three-time Gold Medalist in rowing; Nicole Forrester, Canada’s top-ranked female high jumper; Alicia Martell, children’s author and editor; and representatives from the Canadian Olympic Committee and Visa.

Canada’s winners will be among 30 contest winners from 18 participating countries whose artwork gave expression to the spirit of the Games. The winning designs will be reproduced into fabric and flown at various venues at the 2008 Olympic Games.

[Source: [Visa Olympics of the Imagination Art Challenge](#)]

Visa 'Olympics of the Imagination' Art Challenge — Winners In Their Own Words



ONTARIO

Maia Desjardins, Age 13, Port Hope, Ontario
Title: **Olympic Spirit**

"Both the globe's position and the dragon represent China, where the Olympics are being held. The five children are all from different places in the world, showing how the world comes together for the Olympics. I've also included the Olympic rings and this year's motto, 'One World, One Dream'".



ATLANTIC CANADA

Danyka Leclair, Age 11, Cambellton, New Brunswick
Title: **Dare to Dream**

"My drawing represents how the Olympics bring together athletes and people from all over the world who share a common "dream" of friendly competition and celebration. I added the Chinese shrine, bamboo and lucky dragon (holding the Olympic torch) to represent the Chinese culture."



WESTERN CANADA

Brianna Hartness, Age 13, Regina, Saskatchewan
Title: **"World Win" of Dreams**

"Each country funnels into Beijing for the Olympics bringing with them a whirlwind of excitement, energy and competitive spirit. All athletes from around the world are coming together to live out their dreams. The stick figures symbolizes all athletes are human beings no discrimination of gender, race or colour."



QUEBEC

Cang Yi Yan, Age 12, Quebec City, Quebec
Title: **All United for Victory**

"Official sports are represented through the Olympic colours because all athletes are united without distinction of race, colour, sex or religion. The laurels and the word 'peace' written in 57 languages remind us that the Olympic Games stand for peace above all."

Website of the week



Financial Basics for the Real World.

Budgeting, Saving, Investing and Spending are skills that need to be learned, like anything else. Visa Canada's website, Practical Money Skills, offers an easy-to-use, informative, and comprehensive learning tools that can be used by teachers, students, parents and anyone who wants to improve their financial literacy. There are many interactive and fun exercises that deal with issues from calculating compounded interest, paying off student loans and mortgages and so much more. To take advantage of the excellent learning resources offered at Practical Money Skills.ca, [click here](#) or select one of the boxes featured below.

Practical Money Skills



Teacher's
Guide



Students



In-class
Activities



One
World
One
Dream

Every two years, The Olympic Games, the world's greatest sporting event, presents a wonderful opportunity for kids across Canada to learn more about other countries and to consider how the Olympic spirit can unite different cultures.

Educators are invited to explore the [Canadian Olympic Committee](#) website which is packed with information about the upcoming Beijing Games as well as past Games; background on Canada's talented competing athletes and resources and programs directed at youth of all ages.

In addition, take a look at the official [Beijing 2008 Games](#) site loaded with background on China, Beijing and the events and programs that are planned leading up to lighting of the Flame on August 8.

Do not forget to check out the [Vancouver 2010](#) website which provides information on the preparations being made for Canada's own upcoming Winter Games.



Education News

[Where teachers learn diversity](#) -- Louise Brown, parentcentral.ca, *TheStar.com*, May 21, 2008

"Even a lesson on quadrilaterals can cover more than just four-sided shapes if a teacher really wants to connect with the cultures of the classroom. Take student teacher Iman Abamoussa, part of a special York University program that grooms future teachers for diverse schools. She decided to turn a Grade 4 class on quadrilaterals into a lesson on the mosaics of Morocco – her heritage – that happen to be made from four-sided tiles. The simple geometry class ended up weaving in culture and a respect for diversity, which is just what York's unusual teaching program preaches – that culture must feed the curriculum and race should play a role in the 3 R's."

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