

An Interdisciplinary Journal

Honoring the Voices, Perspectives and Knowledges of First Peoples through Research, Critical Analyses, Stories, Standpoints and Media Reviews

Fair

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Abstract

The grade 3/4 and grade 7 class at Ross Drive Public School worked together to learn about treaties, Shannen Koostachin, and Shannen's Dream. The students were asked to think about what a safe and comfy education might look like and why it is unfair that Shannen Koostachin had to fight for this right. This poem reflects what two students, Hamza and Yuktha, learnt.

This is not fair, while my school is safe yours is in need of aid.
It is insanity that you have to live in this profanity that we have chosen.
I sigh that I have to go to school; you smile because you get to.
Yet, you have to walk a mile in this freezing ice,
you have to survive the harshness of our government.
Whereas I laugh and enjoy my life when at school, I get bored.
You are proud and happy, but scared.
We need schools to be equal not illegal.
Cracked stalls and torn walls;
they say that the schools will get better, that everything will be fair . . .
But instead they leave plenty of promises empty;
improper schools and broken tools.
We live in a world where justice is a lie,
being someone else is a crime.
Indigenous kids are not in proper learning environments, they get diseases, their schools are not sanitary . . .
and their lives aren't fair.
We have to stop, help;
we are all humans and we all have rights.
No one should be left out, we should all be equally treated.
First Nations kids should not be forgotten but honoured.
They might be of a different colour or race, but kids need a change;
we need to honour the treaties and stop the injustice.
It is time, time to make it right.