

A Glimpse into the Life of YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL INSPIRES STUDENTS TO LET THEIR VOICE BE HEARD

By Rob Aguiar, TDSB Teacher

I am passionate about empowering students to have their voices heard, create positive change by building partnerships, and take time for personal reflection. So I've made all three of these inherent in all that I do in class with my students.

Over the years, the students I have taught have helped the homeless, donated to various charities, encouraged unexpected acts of kindness, reduced paper towel consumption, acquired newer eco-friendly hand dryers for the school, and increased the levels of active play through various basketball partnerships. They are truly learning how to make a difference!

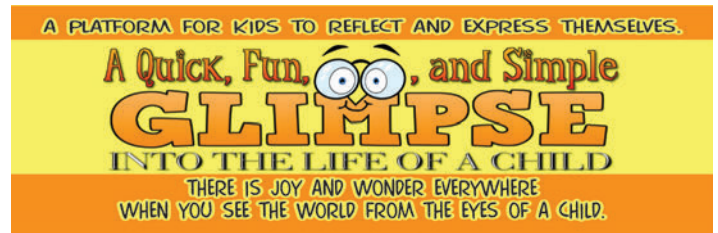
This year, our class has embarked on the greatest and most exciting learning adventure yet: They launched a YouTube channel called Glimpse Into the Life of A Child. Their Glimpses were very well received and the project has grown into other classrooms, other schools, other cities, other provinces, and even other countries.

WHAT'S A GLIMPSE?

Turning to a dictionary, we know that a "glimpse" is a momentary or partial view. A glimpse is also defined as, "to see or perceive briefly or partially." Thus, what students share on their channel are brief videos or glimpses into their lives from their own perspective. The videos are short and simple, but authentic and of great value. They highlight and celebrate diversity between and within families, cultures, and communities; they showcase interests, skills, goals, and opinions; they are a platform for kids to reflect and express themselves; and they are evidence that kids have a voice that could and should be heard. Most importantly, they are created (with teacher support) by kids and for kids.

HOW DID THE PROJECT START?

It all started with a Grade 3 class from Parkfield Junior School in Toronto. Through class discussions about community diversity that stemmed from the study of a novel they had read, the students began to share glimpses of their lives with each other. They captured and presented their glimpses through the use of iMovie.



HOW DID THE PROJECT GROW?

The feedback received from within and outside the school was very exciting and positive. The students began to encourage others to create "glimpses" of their own. They extended invitations to kids in other cities and countries. Invitations were instantly accepted. For those who lacked the technology, the Glimpse Team provided assistance to make it all come together nicely.

In less than two months, their YouTube channel surpassed 2000 views. They were then given very generous financial support to create t-shirts and bookmarks that they now distribute to participants as a gesture of appreciation for supporting their learning adventure.

HOW CAN OTHER STUDENTS GET INVOLVED?

These glimpses allow kids to learn from each other and create peer partnerships that are based in self-reflection and self-expression. If you know a student or class who would like to get involved, check out the Glimpse Team on Facebook (www.facebook.com/glimpseintothelifeofachild) and encourage them to follow the link to the YouTube channel and subscribe! The Glimpse Team can also be reached via email: glimpseintothelifeofachild@gmail.com