CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS

2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS

powered by ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

Over **30,000** students are now impacted every year for the full school year thanks to The Collective.

Community Events are the highlight of our programming. These exclusive in-person experiences are offered to select schools through the generous support of our Gold sponsors. After a full year of virtual mentorship that builds strong, meaningful relationships between students and their Athlete Mentors, these events bring that connection to life.

2,500 STUDENTS MET THEIR MENTOR IN PERSON



14 SCHOOLS VISITED



11 ATHLETE MENTORS

ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

11 SPONSORS POWER THE EVENTS

📍 TIMBERLEA SCHOOL, FORT MCMURRAY AB

POWERED BY ATHABASCA OIL CORPORATION

Braven Park arrived to find his photo already up on the school's outdoor screen and over 200 Timber Wolves howling!

After a school assembly, he went to each classroom, giving out hugs and high-fives, having a skipping contest with teachers, and answering the students' questions.

One Grade 6 student asked: **"Have you ever been underestimated and how did that feel?"**

Braven's answer: **"I showed up anyway. I worked hard. I believed in myself and the process."**

Thank you, Athabasca Oil Corporation for making this happen and providing the students with a pizza lunch AND passes to the Mac Island Rec Centre!







Braven Park
Taekwondo



"This is the best day of my life!"

A student at Timberlea School, Fort McMurray — the moment Braven Park walked into the room.

ATHABASCA
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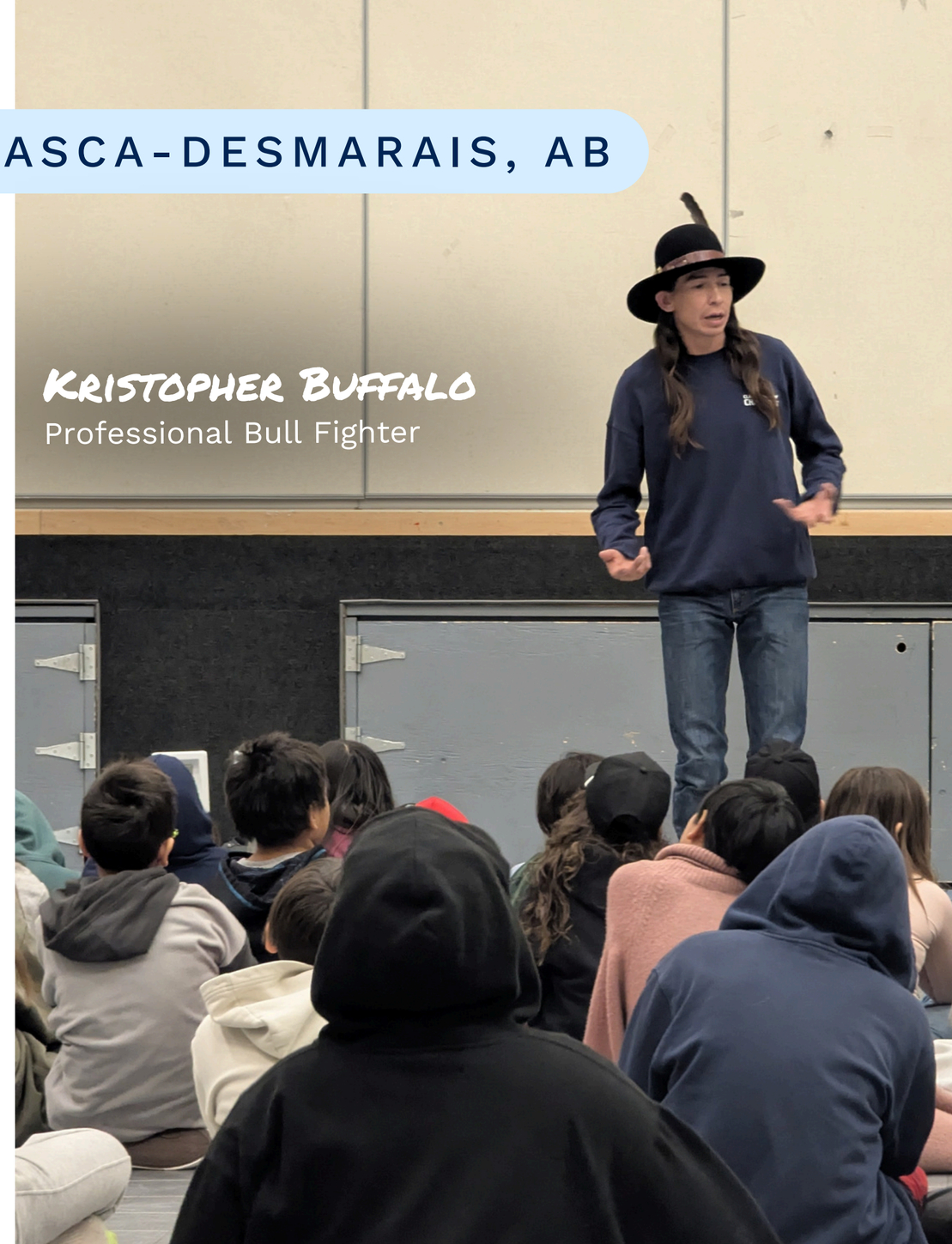
📍 BIGSTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, WABASCA-DESMARAIS, AB

POWERED BY HWX

The moment Kris demonstrated how high a bull rider needs to jump to clear the height of an actual bull, the room erupted!

One question that sparked a conversation was, **why does Kris wear a feather in his hat? His answer opened the door to a powerful discussion about pride in Indigenous identity.** Then Kris took it further, speaking to students in Cree. Watching their faces light up, hearing their language spoken back to them by an athlete they admired was a moment those students won't forget.

Thank you to Headwater for supporting and making this visit possible.





"SUPPORTING CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS IN OUR COMMUNITIES HELPS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS LEARNING ALONGSIDE THEIR MENTOR, KRIS, TO BUILD CONFIDENCE, DEVELOP A GROWTH MINDSET, AND SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE."

HWX

📍 FOX CREEK REGIONAL SCHOOL, FOX CREEK, AB

POWERED BY SECURE

Students were chanting Michelle's name before she stepped foot into the gym!

Michelle made sure to high-five every student on their way out of assembly, play a badminton match and took on some of the high schoolers in 1-on-1 basketball!

A first-grade student asked if she could shoot Michelle's 3x3 Olympic basketball. In front of the whole school, she lofted up a shot... and it went IN! The gym erupted. Kids were screaming, waving their arms, and she danced around like she'd just won gold!

Thank you to SECURE for making the event happen and providing lunch and some fun door prizes.



MICHELLE PLOUFFE
Team Canada, Basketball







“SUPPORTING CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS IN FOX CREEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN LOCAL STUDENTS BY CONNECTING THEM WITH ROLE MODELS LIKE MICHELLE, WHOSE STORY REFLECTS THE VALUE OF HARD WORK, PERSEVERANCE, AND TEAMWORK.”

SECURE

📍 RIVERSTONE PUBLIC SCHOOL, GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB

POWERED BY WHITECAP RESOURCES INC

The students excitedly entered the gym, each of them proudly displaying a handmade sign featuring a personalized welcome message for Austin!

Austin's message to the students was inspiring. He said, **to get better at anything, you need to focus on what you can change.** If you get red marks on a test, it's not a failure; it's your teacher showing you exactly where you can improve.

Thank you, Whitecap, for making this visit possible and treating every student to a pass to East Link Recreation Centre.







"PARTNERING WITH CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS BRINGS THAT TO LIFE BY CONNECTING STUDENTS AT RIVERSTONE WITH A ROLE MODEL LIKE AUSTIN, WHO SHOWS WHAT'S POSSIBLE THROUGH DEDICATION AND RESILIENCE."

WHITECAP RESOURCES INC

📍 HYTHE REGIONAL SCHOOL, HYTHE, AB

POWERED BY KEYERA

The students were so excited to meet the amazing athlete mentor they had been learning from all year.

One student asked Kacie for advice on becoming a better club basketball player. Kacie's advice? **Find your role on the team, own it, and be the best at it you can be.**

Thank you to Keyera for supporting this event and to Brandon Wood and Natasha Lenko for giving Kacie an incredible intro!







"Will you marry me?"

A junior high boy proposing to Kacie Bosch
in front of the entire assembly

KEYERA

📍 CJ SCHURTER, SLAVE LAKE, AB

POWERED BY PLAINS

After a full year of virtual mentorship, these students finally got to meet Cesar face-to-face.

They invited him to recess, where **he joined 60 kids for games and took on every single one of them in a foot race!**

The students made posters, postcards, and had a full list of questions, taking it in turns to read aloud.

Thank you, Plains, for supporting this event and delivering a pizza lunch to the children!





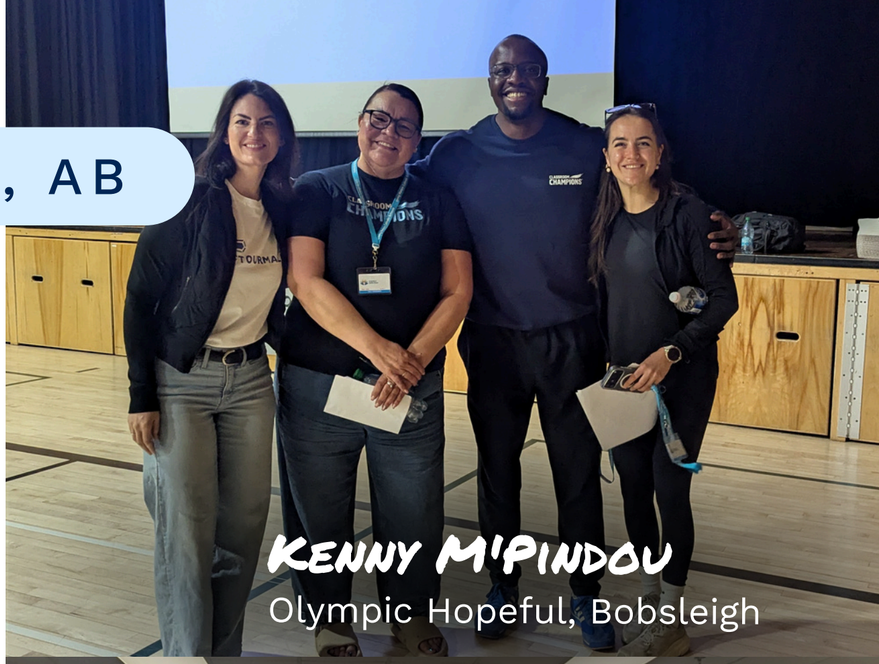


"WE'RE PROUD TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH ATHLETE MENTORS LIKE CESAR, WHO HELP THEM BUILD CONFIDENCE AND DEVELOP A MINDSET ROOTED IN OWNERSHIP."

PLAINS

📍 HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC SCHOOL, EDSON, AB

POWERED BY TOURMALINE



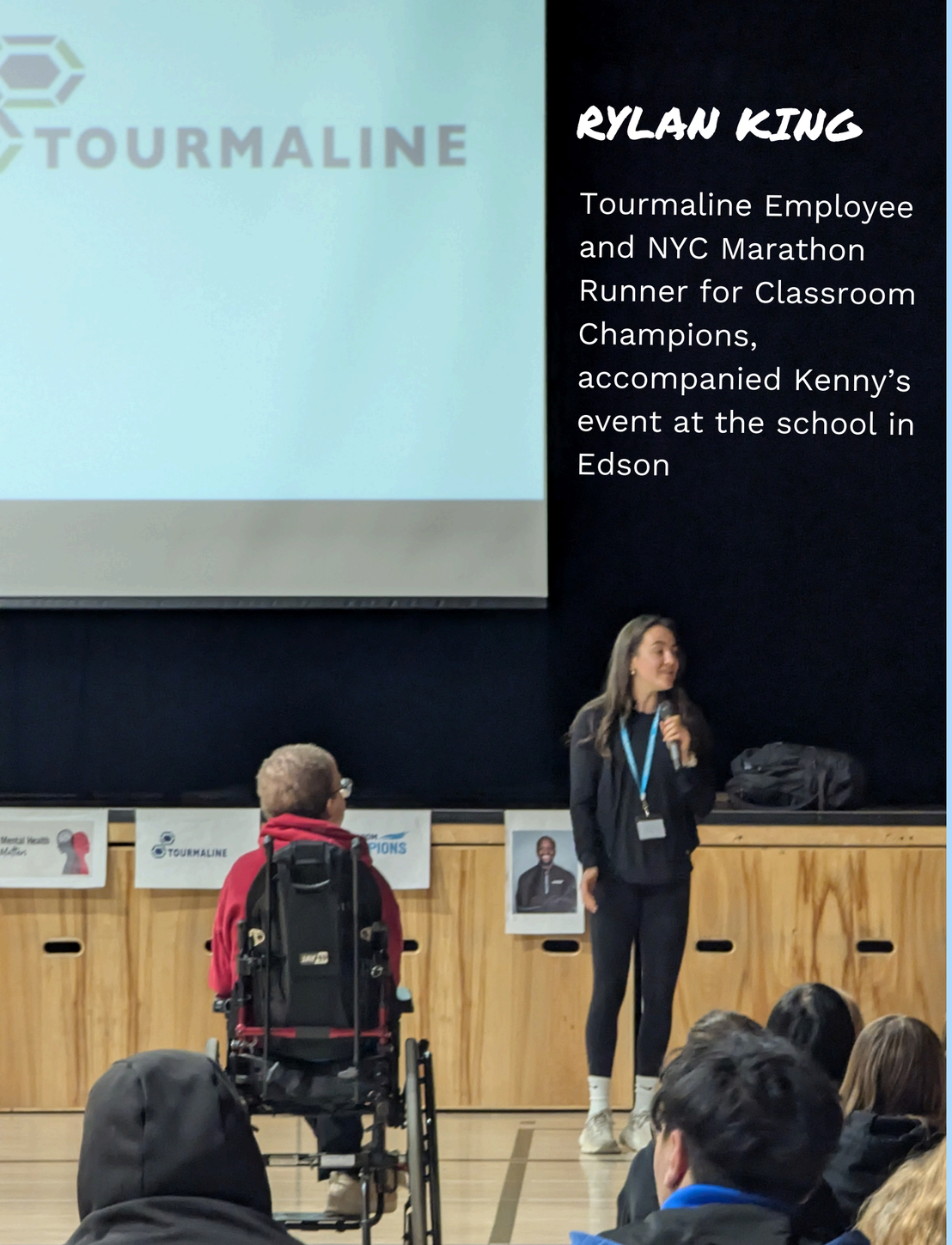
The entire front entryway was lined with students holding handmade posters and cheering for Kenny.

The school was kicking off Mental Health Month, and Kenny's visit was selected to launch it. Tourmaline representatives Rylan and Sarah opened the event, with Rylan sharing her own experience training for and completing a marathon.

Students were captivated by Kenny’s bobsledding videos and asked thoughtful questions, but the part that stayed with everyone was when **Kenny spoke candidly about his own experience with bullying and the importance of staying kind and respecting other people's differences.**



Thank you, Tourmaline, for making this visit possible and for showing up in the room alongside Kenny.



RYLAN KING

Tourmaline Employee and NYC Marathon Runner for Classroom Champions, accompanied Kenny’s event at the school in Edson

"CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO LEARN FROM MENTORS LIKE KENNY AND SEE HOW RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION CAN SHAPE THEIR OWN PATH FORWARD."

TOURMALINE

📍 CUSHING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CUSHING, OK

POWERED BY SOUTHBOW



MACY TARLTON
Olympic Hopeful, Bobsleigh

Macy arrived in her Team USA Speedsuit to chants of MACY! MACY!

Macy shared the story of her heartbreaking setback when she didn't qualify for the Milan Olympics, but when a teammate needed her support, she showed up anyway. **"I'm going to have this experience and help Team USA."** She told the kids that being a champion takes many forms.



One of the South Bow representatives actually went to Cushing Elementary and his 5th-grade teacher was the principal!

Thank you South Bow for giving back to the community and making this event happen.



"Can we be friends?"

A Grade 1 student to Macy Tarlton
at recess — Cushing, OK

SOUTHBOW

📍 RUSK ELEMENTARY, MIDLAND, TX

POWERED BY Ovintiv™

The students were completely in awe when Macy walked into their classrooms. There were audible gasps, "wows," and kids who couldn't believe their Athlete Mentor was actually standing in front of them.

The students greeted her with handmade cards, hand-drawn portraits, and a bilingual class that had prepared thoughtful questions. They practiced their inquiries in English and crafted a closing statement specifically for her.

For Matt, Ovintiv's representative during the visit, this occasion held personal significance; his wife is the principal of Rusk Elementary, and his son is one of the participating students.

Thank you to Ovintiv for supporting this event and making this moments possible for these students.



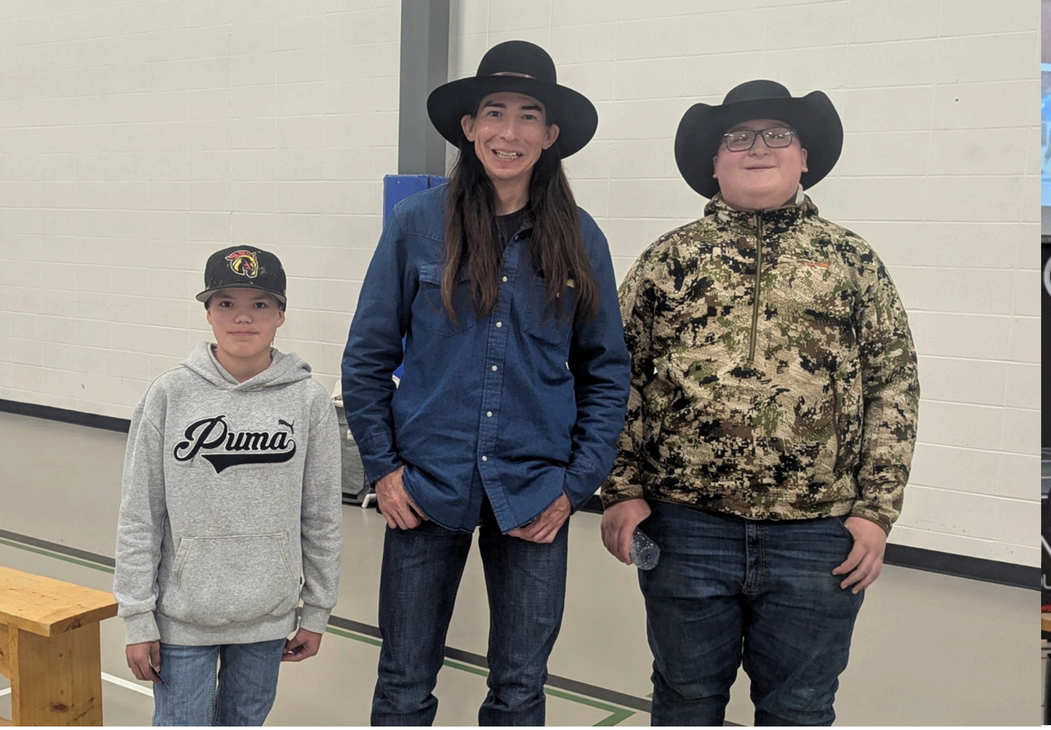






"MEETING MACY IN PERSON BUILDS ON THE MENTORSHIP STUDENTS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING IN THE CLASSROOM AND HELPS THEM SEE WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN THEY BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES."

Ovintiv™





Kristopher Buffalo

Professional Bull Fighter

The students were hanging on Kristopher's every word from the moment he arrived. Two young cowboys were so excited to meet him that they stayed behind just to get his picture and ask for his advice.

Kristopher spoke to the students about staying in school and the important role their teachers play. **His emphasis on being proud of who you are landed deeply**, and when he spoke those words in Cree, hearing their own language spoken back to them by someone so influential was a moment the students won't forget.

- 📍 ELIZABETH QUINTAL SCHOOL, PEERLESS LAKE, PEERLESS TROUT FIRST NATION, AB
- 📍 KATERI SCHOOL, TROUT LAKE, PEERLESS TROUT FIRST NATION, AB
- 📍 CLARENCE JAYCOX SCHOOL, LOON RIVER FIRST NATION, AB
- 📍 LITTLE BUFFALO SCHOOL, LUBICON LAKE BAND, AB
- 📍 ATIKAMEG SCHOOL, WHITEFISH LAKE FIRST NATION, AB

POWERED BY ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

📍 ALWIN HOLLAND, FORT ST JOHN, BC

📍 BERT AMBROSE SCHOOL, FORT ST JOHN, BC

POWERED BY PETRONAS

The students came curious and ready with questions, genuinely engaged with every answer Greg gave. Greg spent part of the morning without his prosthetic arm and part of the afternoon wearing it, and the difference in student curiosity was remarkable. Questions nearly doubled when his prosthetic was on.

His message throughout the day was “**everyone is different, and different is not just okay, it's something to be grateful for.**”

Thank you, PETRONAS, for bringing Greg Stewart to these students and making this possible.



GREG STEWART
Paralympic Gold Medalist, Shotput





"I WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING."

Greg's response to a student who asked him,
"If you could go back and do it all again
with two arms, would you?"

PETRONAS

📍 HUDSON'S HOPE SCHOOL, HUDSON'S HOPE, BC

POWERED BY ARC RESOURCES LTD

The students were so excited to meet Olivia. They had countless questions and were genuinely invested in her story, eager to learn about the sport, her journey, her career, and how she faced challenges along the way.

In every class, there were always at least three hands raised, wanting to ask questions!

Many of these students go boating or kayaking, which allowed them to quickly connect with rowing. By the end of the visit, they were even practicing the rowing movements alongside her.

Thank you to ARC Resources for their support in making this visit possible and for showing up for the students and community.







"We don't want you to leave. We'll miss you."

Two students who sprinted across the schoolyard to hug Olivia McMurray — Hudson's Hope, BC

ARC RESOURCES LTD.

📍 SHAUNAVON PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHAUNAVON, SK

POWERED BY SOUTHBOW

Students were so excited to meet Quinn and had so many questions to ask her.

Quinn encouraged students to dream big and believe their goals are within reach. She shared that **"you have to see it to be it,"** reminding students that positive role models can inspire them to imagine new possibilities for themselves.

Representatives from South Bow attended the event alongside school leadership and staff, showing their ongoing commitment to supporting students and investing in their community.

Thank you to South Bow for making this event possible for these students.





“SEEING THE IMPACT QUINN DORNSTAUDER HAS HAD ON STUDENTS AT SHAUNAVON SCHOOL IS A POWERFUL REMINDER THAT STRONG ROLE MODELS CAN TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

SOUTHBOW



MAKING HEADLINES

This year's Classroom Champions Community Events were featured across TV, radio, print, and digital, with coverage from NBC, CBS, Yahoo News, Play 103.7, EverythingGP, and the Weekly Anchor spanning Canada and the US, shining a light on the impact of athlete mentorship in local communities.



'Classroom Champions' connects C.J Schurter students with an athlete mentor

Students at C.J. Schurter School recently had the opportunity to meet a professional athlete in person through the Classroom Champions program, which connects youth with athletes to help build confidence, resilience, and leadership…

Lakeside Leader / May 21

(Image Credit: Classroom Champions/Facebook.)

CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS By Curtis Galbraith

Riverstone students to hear presentation from three-time Paralympian on Tuesday

Apr 21, 2026 | 6:01 AM

Energeticcity.ca

Classroom Champion Paralympian visits Alwin Holland Elementary students

Two-time Paralympic gold medalist and reigning world F46 Shot put champion Greg Stewart visited Alwin Elementary School on Wednesday, June 3rd

BY ED HITCHINS • SPORTS • JUNE 3, 2026



Classroom Champions (Image Credit: Classroom Champions social media)

CLASSROOM CHAMPIONS By Tanner Smith

Canadian Olympian visiting Fox Creek School this week

Apr 14, 2026 | 1:41 PM

Fox Creek Regional School is taking part in the Classroom Champions program this year.

As part of that program, three-time Canadian Olympic Basketball player Michelle Plouffe was assigned as the school's Classroom Athlete-Mentor, and has already had a few online calls with kids over the past year, sharing her own stories within sports about building a "mindset of a champion," and the skills that come with that.



Cushing Elementary students meet Olympian after year-long mentorship

Not everyone can say they've met an Olympic athlete, but students at Cushing Elementary School can now say that.

Yahoo News

Classroom Champions brings elite athlete mentorship to Fort McMurray

By Jon Tupper

Apr 10, 2026 | 7:37 AM

FORT McMURRAY, Alta. — Students at Timberlea Public School are set to welcome a Canadian Taekwondo athlete later this month as part of a national mentorship program aimed at building confidence and life skills in young learners.



ArturVerkhovetskiy / Depositphotos.com

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY EVENT

Community Events are the highlight of Classroom Champions programming — exclusive in-person moments offered to select schools through the support of Gold sponsors. After a full year of highly effective virtual mentorship that builds strong, meaningful relationships between students and their Athlete Mentor, these events bring that connection to life face-to-face.

WHAT A TYPICAL EVENT LOOKS LIKE

Students gather in their school gym for an interactive presentation, Q&A, and hands-on activities with the mentor they have grown close to all year. Classroom Champions coordinates everything — working with the school, accompanying the athlete, and ensuring the day spotlights the Gold sponsor's commitment to the community through event collateral and PR.

HOW SPONSORS GET INVOLVED

Gold sponsors can support the event through snacks, hot lunch, draw prizes, or branded swag. Company employees are welcome to attend and witness the impact firsthand — an authentic way to demonstrate community leadership. The sponsor's logo appears on all event collateral sent home to families, and where media is available, Classroom Champions will pitch the story.

BEFORE THE ATHLETE ARRIVES

Every community event comes with everything the school needs to get ready, including branded activities, posters, and resources that build excitement in the weeks leading up to the visit.

Students decorate hallways, trade player cards, and learn about their Athlete Mentor's journey before they ever meet them in person.

By the time the big day arrives, sponsors' logos have already been in the classroom, on the walls, in the students' hands. And it stays there long after the visit is done.



ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

THANK YOU TO THESE GOLD COLLECTIVE MEMBERS* FOR SUPPORTING THE 2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS

ARC RESOURCES LTD

ATHABASCA OIL CORPORATION

HWX

KEYERA

Ovintiv™

PETRONAS

SECURE

SOUTHBOW

TOURMALINE

WHITECAP RESOURCES INC

*FULL COLLECTIVE MEMBERSHIP ON NEXT SLIDE

ENERGIZING COMMUNITIES COLLECTIVE

Thank you to the Energizing Communities Collective for making the 2026 Community Events a huge success!

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