

## Father Michael Troy Junior High Students Celebrate “The Hands and Faces of Diversity”

Grade 9 students at Father Michael Troy Catholic Junior High School in the Meadows Community had an opportunity to work with a local visual artist, Theodora Harasymiw last June to explore the topic of *diversity* and design *abstract* visual images. The project was a farewell gift from the grade nine students to the entire Father Michael Troy school community. This visual arts project was also unique in that it was the first tile mosaic of this scale that Theo has created. Over the past twelve years, Theo’s mural work has transformed the halls of many schools in the Edmonton area with images created by the students.

The project initially began with a one hour session with Theo to create abstract images of faces and hands in a multitude of vibrant pastel colors on construction paper. These images symbolize the diversity within our school community. The students’ ideas were then incorporated within a tile mosaic project on the central pillar within the school gathering area. Throughout the entire month of June students were in awe as the project unfolded and the images came to life. The colorful mosaic of expression greets students and guests entering the school.

The students, parents and staff at Father Michael Troy are happy to be a part of this vibrant community and we hope that community members will drop in and appreciate the beauty of the mosaic!

To appreciate Theo’s gallery online visit [www.paintingtheo.ca](http://www.paintingtheo.ca)

*By Deborah Rowley, Principal Father Michael Troy*

