

Media Release

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Horizon Students Hear Testimony of Holocaust Survivor at 2nd Annual Symposium

Humboldt, SK – Approximately 650 students, educators and guests gathered for the Horizon Holocaust Symposium on Tuesday, April 19 at the Humboldt Uniplex Curling Rink. The theme for this year was “Interpret the Past, Forge the Future”. Following a day of presentations and workshops, the event culminated with Mr. Nate Leipziger, Holocaust survivor, sharing his powerful, moving survivor testimony and answering questions from students and staff.

Grade 11 students from across Horizon School Division attended the symposium. Education Minister Don Morgan brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and Judge David Arnot, Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, was on-hand to deliver one of the day’s several presentations.

“The lessons students will take away from our Holocaust Symposium provide a perfect example of why it is so critical to provide safe and caring, culturally responsive school environments for our students and staff. The importance of empathy and acceptance is why Safe & Caring is one of our three foundational goals as a system,” said Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education for Horizon School Division. “We are extremely proud to offer this powerful learning opportunity for our Grade 11 students. It is an honour to have Mr. Leipziger visit our division to share his remarkable story, along with our other distinguished guests.”

Work to establish the symposium began in 2015, when Mr. Larry Mikulcik, social studies teacher at William Derby School in Strasbourg, was selected by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation as one of 25 teachers worldwide to participate in the “Auschwitz: The Past is Present” professional development program in Poland. Following the powerful experience of last year’s symposium, Horizon’s Board of Education has established this as an annual event for all Grade 11 students.

Sessions on such topics as the events that lead to the Holocaust, an understanding of Judaism and anti-Semitism, life and justice in Israel today, and the state of human rights provide a critical learning opportunity for Horizon’s students and staff.

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For photographs or more information, please contact:

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