



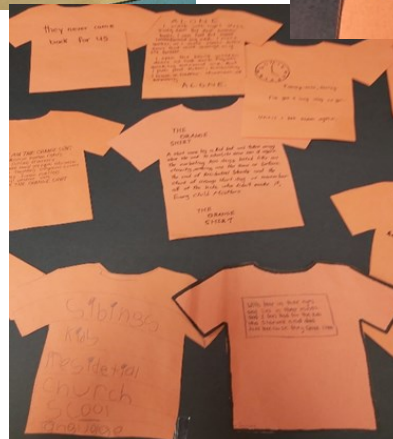
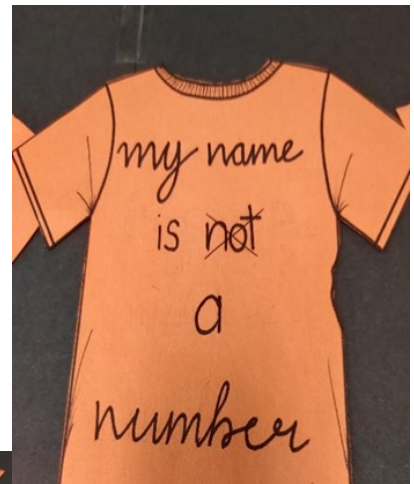
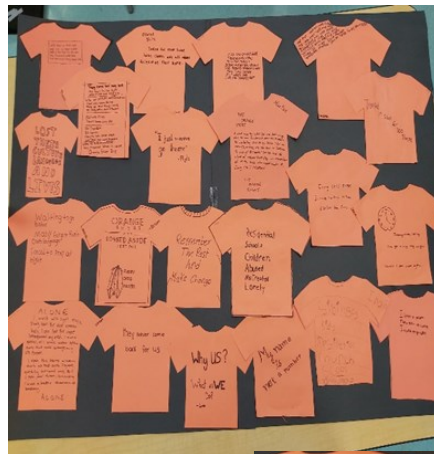
Writing for Reconciliation: Orange Shirt Day

At Leila students work on literacy through:

- Writers workshops
- Growing our vocabulary
- Reading recipes
- Encouraging reading for interest
- Doing research
- Books in a bag
- Novel studies
- Etc.

Leila North students in rooms 10 and 11 are grateful to live on Treaty 1 Territory. They know how important it is to learn about the past so that they are part of reconciliation in the present to build a better future for all Canadians. They began the year learning about the atrocities of Residential Schools as we commemorated Or-

ange Shirt Day on September 30th. They read books, watched videos, and then spent some time outside on the land, connecting and writing. Students summed up their feelings and messages in poetry and 6 Word Memoirs, which were displayed on orange shirts for others to read.



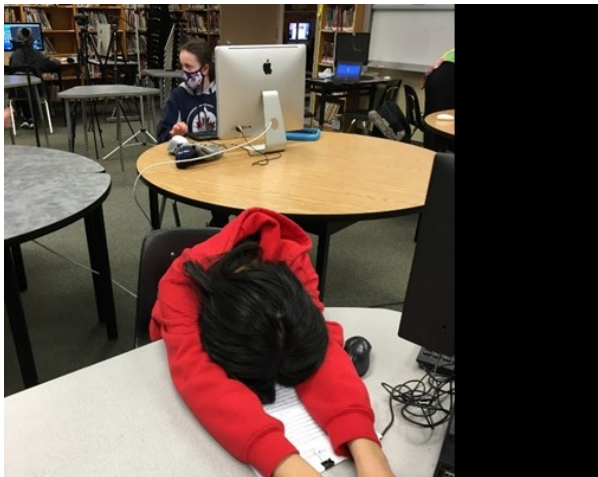
U gotta read these!

Lower case l's, using the letter u for you, writing with words that do not exist in the English dictionary like 'gonna' or 'gotta'. These are the horrendous and sadly common grammatical assaults committed in the 2020's. Acknowledging the benefits of technology and the advancements it has afforded us, we also recognize one of the drawbacks of it's use as a difficulty to express one's self in formal and expository writing. That is what makes the essay that room 5 does in grade seven on the book 'Touching Spirit Bear' so important and daunting.

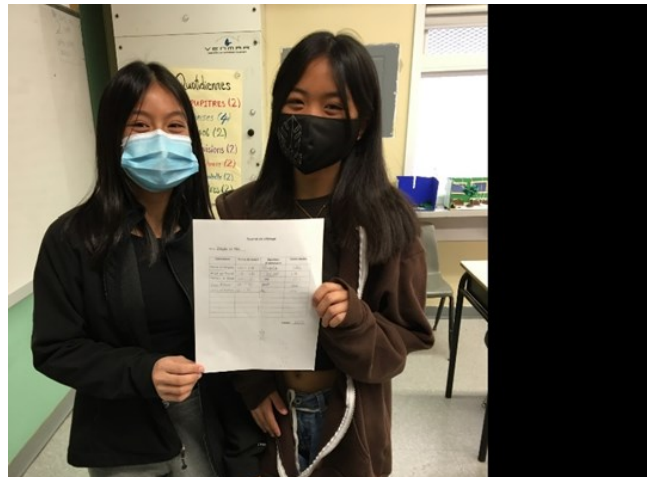
At the onset, Mr. Alexander tries to make the essay seem worse than it really is so that students will be invigorated when they see it come together. The collective groans fill the room as he tells them with a cold ferocity mingled with inexorable cupidity that their five-paragraph essay must be completed in two and half weeks before spring break.

The students are provided with examples of how to brainstorm their topics. Templates for outlines on how to organize their arguments and quotations. A checklist of common grammatical errors to avoid. Sample opening and closing sentences and ideas for conclusions are available for use. Even with all these resources there is still one necessary ingredient that is needed. It is an intangible element and one the favourite things about Leila North...community. The students, almost without prompting, embrace the practice of reading each others' drafts to provide feedback to strengthen arguments or add clarity to a thesis. Though each student turns in their own essay they feel as if they have worked collectively. They are proud to see their peers receive positive results because they know that they helped with the process.

This year produced some wonderful essays that offered profound and unique contributions to the analysis of the book 'Touching Spirit Bear'. Sometimes younger generations are blamed or scolded for not working as hard or being as detail oriented as previous generations. However, when given the opportunity and direction, as with these essays, the future generation displays the propensity to persevere and strive for excellence with intrinsic motivation. U gotta read these!!



A student hits a wall trying to come up with a conclusion

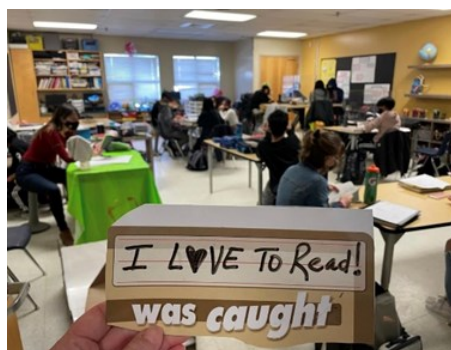


A student celebrates her results with a friend

“I Love to Read Week”



From the week of February 16-19, Leila North participated in an *I Love to Read* week, celebrating books, authors and literacy throughout the school. There were four themed days including a “Book cover door decorating challenge”, “Where’s Waldo Wednesday”, “Wear a readable shirt day” and a “Name that book emoji challenge”. Constable Rachel Vertone circulated through the school as our guest reader, reading to a variety of classes. There were mystery readers during the morning announcements, along with a “Drop everything and read” initiative which took place throughout the week. Our “Guess the Selfie to the Shelfie” bulletin board had teachers along with their bookshelves with a school-wide game alongside to match up the correct pair. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our love for reading here at Leila, while having a fun-filled week!



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This year has been a tumultuous year with many uncertainties. Mme. Nickel searched to find an effective way for her students to learn the curriculum while having fun and de-stressing. She came across a project that was done by a colleague in British Columbia and decided to tweak it and design it so that it would meet her students' needs. In the end the students got to take part in 20+ learning activities that were hands-on and challenged them to think outside the box. They were tasked with designing a product that would better society in some way. They had experts join them via Zoom from across Canada, Dragon's Den Junior, a product design expert visit and lots more. Students were engaged and some surpassed the challenge given to them by designing a product that is being sold today. We are very proud of the students for their ingenuity, creativity, perseverance, and drive to create products that not only met various needs but were well designed and marketed. Way to go room 12.

