

FAX RELEASE

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Subject: Mother Teresa Olympics

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Game On! Mother Teresa Catholic School Olympic Games Open With Special Guests

February 16, Russell On – Mother Teresa Catholic School in Russell has caught Olympic fever. The school opened its first ever Winter Olympic games on Thursday, February 16th.

Students have been split into 20 countries. Those teams are made up of students representing all grades.

Among those in attendance was 1972 Canadian Olympian **Greg Rokosh**. **Mr. Rokosh** spoke to the students about his Olympic experience as a rower in the 1972 games in Munich. The former Olympian also delivered a very important message about sportsmanship saying, "It's an old message, but it's a good one. It really doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the Game. I placed 9th in my Olympics, but I still feel as if I won."

Students paraded with their countries around the school, winding their way to the gym, the venue of the opening ceremony. Once in, those in attendance were privileged to hear student representatives speak about their adopted countries, show off their flag and perform a team cheer that will be used to encourage team mates as the games progress.

CDSBEO Director of Education Ann Perron was also in attendance. **Ms. Perron** told the group how impressed she was with the students desire to learn about their adopted countries stating, "It's wonderful how you have spent time learning about the culture of your new countries. The Olympics provide a unique vehicle in which to learn about our friends around the World."

Ms. Perron then had the honour of declaring the 2006 Mother Teresa Catholic School Winter Olympics open.

Those in attendance were then treated to a performance of the Italian and Canadian national anthems as performed by the school's junior choir.

After the event **Mother Teresa Principal Kerry Lamming** said he was proud of his students. "Our kids have worked very hard to prepare for today," said Mr. Lamming. "We thought that hosting our own Olympics would be a fun change of pace for our students. They have all really gotten into the spirit of the game and are looking forward to competing in our fun events."

The games themselves will be played out the week of February 27th.

