

# ON-TABLE

May 1, 2008

Dear Mr Page,

My name is Carla Sumarlidson-Cloutier and I am a teacher at Herbert Spencer Elementary School. I would like to make a presentation at the next city hall meeting to raise awareness for a New Westminster charity I am helping. The following is my story about the project and the charity:

Last year I approached one of my parents who was a professional photographer about offering his expertise and embarking on a project with the children. Little did I know the chain of events that was to unveil. He spoke to me about doing some pinhole photography. I said that was a great idea and that I had done it with the kids in the past. In April, he came to me with a prototype camera he had created that was a pinhole camera that advanced film. By the end of May, he had built 30 cameras capable of taking 12 images each, and we were off to the local park to take pictures. After a few trips to Queen's Park, we had taken our photos. The students were instructed about light exposure time, perspective, basic camera use and general interest.

On the last day of school, Daren Gallo (the photographer) and his wife Maureen came to the class with a CD-rom of the slide show displaying the student's work. Maureen was extremely excited but I was skeptical. Maureen said, "These images are better than many I've seen in adult shows." Well, then we saw the show. I was blown away!! Wow, I can't express how amazing the pictures were that the kids took those days in the park. I immediately told Daren and Maureen that I cannot put this in the drawer and I worked all summer to get a gallery to show the student's work.

Two weeks before school was to start again, the Plaskett Gallery in the Massey Theatre asked if we were interested in showing the kids work beginning September 10th. I spoke with Daren and asked, "Can we do it?" And he replied, "YES." We needed financing and I called my friend Bill Ranford to see if he could help us out. After a few very quick conversations, we had our money from Bill Ranford (two time Edmonton Oiler goalie Stanley Cup winner) and Darren Flintoff (co-owner with Bill of Mr. Mikes's Restaurants). We were set!! We had an opening night gala at the gallery on Sept. 14th with a great attendance. Two of the local newspapers ran a two-page spread and I appeared on "The Express" and local TV program through Shaw. We raised \$2500 for Bill's charity but I think there is a whole lot more to be raised. Who doesn't like beautiful black and white images professionally framed? I have about 20 of the photos left and would like to offer them for purchase to further promote Bill and Darren's kind support and to continue to promote children's artwork. Bill's charity, the **Westcoast Children's Charity**, supports at-risk kids in New Westminster. At-risk children are children who come from deprived homes who may have been abused physically, mentally or emotionally and who want to make a better life for themselves. By offering the kids a variety of positive options, we can make a difference in their life and help them to become contributing citizens possibly even role models for others in our community. A pay it forward mentality. Think about it... Art By Kids For Kids. My kids know how lucky they are and that there are many children who are not as fortunate they are and that is why they want you to know what they want to do. You get great art and in return Bill's charity gets the support. What could be better? Support children in our community to make a better life for themselves.

I have 20 pictures left that are 21X21 in size. Each piece is professionally framed and available for you when you make a generous donation to the **Westcoast Children's Charity**. We were

asking \$175/picture and would like to raise another \$3500 for the **Westcoast Children's Charity**. Daren Gallo has created a website so you can view the artwork and the address is [www.fineartbykids.com](http://www.fineartbykids.com)

I will need a laptop with an internet connection and a projector for the computer so I can show the information from the computer onto a screen.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and let me know when it would be convenient to do the presentation.

Yours truly,

Carla Sumarlidson-Cloutier.