

Three-time Nobel Prize Nominee to visit with Pickering College students

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Pickering College welcomes celebrated human rights advocate Craig Kielburger to speak with students and participate in a Global Lunch event on Monday, January 22, 2007. Kielburger, who committed himself to helping the world's children at the age of 12, is the founder of Free The Children, the world's largest network of children helping children through education. His visit to Pickering College presents a unique opportunity for students to learn about the needs of children in developing countries - a cause that Pickering College students aim to raise \$20,000 to support this year.

In addition to Kielburger's keynote address, students will participate in a Global Lunch as a way to experience the disparity of wealth around the world first hand. Students and staff will be divided according to current global socio-economic statistics: 5% will dine on prime rib; 18% will receive a typical North American lunch; 77% will represent those in developing countries - they will receive a bowl of rice. This final group will total 262 of the 340 participants.

"We are thrilled to welcome Craig Kielburger to Pickering College as part of our ongoing Leadership Program," says Headmaster, Peter Sturup. "Our school culture strongly encourages students to understand global issues and find ways to make a difference to those in need. This event provides an opportunity for our students to interact with a renowned advocate who is walking his talk." This year, Pickering College students in grades seven and twelve have committed to work with Free The Children to fund the building and outfitting of a school in Sierra Leone.

Dubbed "Project: Building Block", students in grades five to eight will host a series of events throughout the year, including an art auction of original student work that raised \$2350 in December, and a cell phone drive presently underway. The remaining funds will be garnered through corporate donations secured by the grade twelve Leadership class.

"The Leadership class spent the first part of this school year researching the issues, selecting the organization they wanted to work with and developing a multi-media fundraising presentation," reports Program Director, Brian Murray. "Over the next four months, students will be making presentations to corporations and securing the funds needed to build the school."

Pickering College's Leadership Program is a 4-year program for all students in grades nine through twelve. A select number of students participate in a fifth year following graduation, called a Legacy Year, where they travel abroad to be of service to a developing community. This year's Legacy Year participants will travel to Ecuador to work with local Non-Governmental Organizations and charities.

Media are invited to attend Craig Kielburger's keynote address from 9:30am to 11:00am, and/or to cover the Global Lunch beginning at 1:00pm in the Pickering College dining hall - 16945 Bayview Avenue, Newmarket. Media are asked to check-in at the school office upon arrival.