

Updates...

Dreams of running with the Paralympic Torch during its journey across Canada.

Become a Paralympic Torch Bearer



The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will kick off in March 2010, and Canadians young and old will have a chance to participate in the [Paralympic Torch Relay](#). The Paralympic Torch will journey to eleven communities in ten days and the Province of British Columbia is looking for Torchbearers.

Students who are thirteen years or older can enter a contest for a chance to participate in the Relay – **Deadline January 6, 2010**. Schools that are on the route are invited to come out and cheer on the Paralympic Torch as it travels through their community.

In addition to the contest, schools can seize the opportunity to raise their students' awareness of the Paralympic Games with resources available from the [Sharing the Dream website](#), [Canadian Paralympic Committee](#) and [International Paralympic Committee](#).

Sign up for Paralympic Torch Relay contest, and learn about the relay route at <http://www.yougottabehere.com/paralympic-torch-relay/>.

Paralympic School Week

Students at École Willows Elementary School helped celebrate the spirit and significance of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games during the launch of the Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week (Nov. 2-6, 2009) with Healthy Living and Sport Minister Ida Chong, VANOC VP Dave Guscott, gold medal paralympian Todd Nicholson and Paralympic mascot Sumi. Students got the chance to try Paralympic sledge hockey, wheelchair curling and cross-country skiing. Check out the video of the event: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/videos/>

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Keep Sharing Your Stories: Tell the World What You're Doing

Dreams of sharing Olympic stories of passion, creativity and spirit have come true for Redfish Elementary School.

Dreams can help change our world in the most unexpected, unforeseen and wonderful ways.

2010 Spirit Schools Winners



Many schools across the Province registered as a 2010 Spirit School. Congratulations to the early bird prize winners:

- Road to 2010 Tour: Redfish Elementary
- 2010 Mascot Visit: Taylor Elementary
- Torch Prototype Visit: Sentinel Secondary School
- Healthy Snacks Prize Pack: Uplands Elementary
- ActNow BC Prize Pack: Alexander Robinson Elementary, Seycove Secondary, École Crescent Park School, John Knox Christian, Dorothea Walker Elementary, Quarterway Elementary.

Interested in becoming a Spirit School? It's not too late for any school in an active GamesTown 2010 community to register in three easy steps:

1. Submit a 2010 Spirit School entry on your community's page at www.GamesTown2010.ca,
2. Take the ActNow Healthy Living Challenge,
3. Share stories, photos and videos to eligible for the **Grand Prize draw in January.**

Stories from Spirit Schools

Communities across B.C. are sharing their stories and showing us and the world their Olympic and Paralympic Games spirit through sport, healthy living, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you to the 145 schools that have submitted



stories! A recent story on GamesTown2010 highlights the Seycove Secondary School. As part of the Adopt a Country program a few enthusiastic grade 11 students came an hour

early to school on November 18 to hear a World War II veteran speak. The veteran was one of the first battalions to enter the Netherlands and eventually liberate the country. The students were impressed by the historical context the veteran could give on an event that they have been discussing through an on-line forum with a school in the Netherlands.

Check out GamesTown2010 for more Spirit School stories or to vote for your favourite GamesTown submission.

Adopt a Country

109 classrooms in 70 schools have adopted 51 countries! Adopt a Country is a school-based program that builds awareness of global citizenship by encouraging students to learn about other countries, and by connecting B.C. students with their peers around the world. The [Adopt a Country School Guide](#) has details on how to adopt county and suggestions on how to integrate this program into existing class work. If you have adopted a country and want to connect with another school that has adopted the same country check out the "Summary of Adopted Countries" and connect with that school on this list on the [Sharing the Dream](#) website.

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Dreams of students connecting with athletes from countries around the world through Student Welcome Cards.

Student Welcome Cards

Thank you to all of the schools that submitted art work for this project. We received over 7,500 submissions from nearly 200 schools. All of the art work received will be posted in January to an online gallery on the Ministry of Education's Sharing the Dream website.



*Artwork by Cassidy, Grade 3,
Mennonite Education Institute
Elementary School*



*Artwork by Hasib, Grade 12,
Princess Margaret Secondary
School*



*Artwork by Stephen, Grade 7,
Errington Elementary School*

These images will be used to create cards to extend a warm welcome to visiting athletes, team members and dignitaries of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Cards will be placed on night tables in every guest room in the Olympic and Paralympic Villages in Vancouver and Whistler.

The keepsake cards will include as many individual images from B.C. students as possible. Each card will include the artist's first name, grade, and school. The athlete can thank the artist and school with the generic school e-mail address on the card.

Dreams of students discussing youth issues with experts and other schools through Student Webcasts

Student Webcasts

The Sharing the Dream student-led webcasts invite students to discuss a variety of youth issues including culture, sustainability, Olympism, Paralympism and global citizenship.



*Paralympians Andrea Holmes and Donovan Tildesley interviewed
by Rockridge Secondary and Riverside Secondary student leaders.*

Check out the latest [webcast](#) on the theme of Paralympism, and hear the inspiring stories of two Paralympic athletes. Don't miss the upcoming webcast on February 4, "Olympic Truce: Make Your Peace".

Visit the [Sharing the Dream](#) website for more information.

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Dreams of children and youth participating in the Olympic and Paralympic celebrations through Transportation Grants

2010 GamesKids Transportation Grants



2010 Legacies Now and ActNow BC are pleased to provide transportation grants to youth groups and schools to attend events leading up to and during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

If you require financial assistance with transportation to attend an Olympic or Paralympic-themed event in B.C. with a group of children or youth, please visit [2010 GamesKids Grant Program](#) at [ActNow BC](#). 2010 Legacies Now will review and administer the grants on behalf of ActNow BC.

Transportation grants are open to school groups, youth organizations, teams & clubs, community groups, and other agencies that work directly with children or youth. The grants may be used to cover the cost of bus or vehicle rental; gas; ferry fees (including reservations); and driver costs.

When applying for a 2010 GamesKids grant, please ensure you have considered: the method of transportation, use of a credited and insured transportation company, appropriate number of chaperones, and that you are providing healthy snacks.

If your community has yet to host a torch relay celebration or is a neighbouring torch relay community, this is a great opportunity to bring children and families to attend the 2010 Games events.

Teachers can share the imaginative work happening in their classrooms with the world.

/EDU Project Showcase

The [/EDU Project Showcase](#) features school projects that relate to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games or the Pillars of sport, culture and sustainability.

The Project Showcase offers an opportunity for teachers to share the imaginative work they're doing with a worldwide audience, and to be inspired by the work of their colleagues. Submissions can feature classroom projects, extracurricular activities by clubs or intramural competitions. A [Showcase Toolkit](#) is also available to help educators create and [submit content](#).



UBC Global Minds Challenge

How can you win \$2,010 using Twitter, mobile phones and other digital technology to help promote student engagement with the Games? The UBC Faculty of Education is challenging all K-12 schools, teachers, and students around the world to show how digital technologies are fostering global learning. **Deadline to [submit proposals](#) is December 19, 2009.**

For more information and details on how to enter visit <http://educ.ubc.ca/globalminds>.