

4REAL School Launch: Global Education Resources for a New Generation

Vancouver students set to learn about global and local issues through 4REAL School based on dynamic documentary series.

Vancouver—February 2009—The Vancouver School Board will host the launch of the implementation of 4REAL School, an innovative global education resource, at Britannia High School on Friday, February 20 at 8:30 a.m.

4REAL School is a set of teaching guides and DVDs based on each episode of the Vancouver-produced 4REAL documentary TV series. 4REAL takes celebrity guests on adventures around the world to connect with young leaders who, under extreme circumstances, are effecting positive change in their communities and beyond. Celebrities including Cameron Diaz, K'NAAN and M.I.A. learn about global issues (e.g. poverty, human rights, environment), in places such as Liberia, Kenya and Peru.

The VSB is hosting this launch to provide an opportunity for VSB school communities to implement the 4REAL School curricula. The day of the event has been timed with the U.N.'s World Day for Social Justice. The Vancouver School Board has played a key role in the development of 4REAL School.

Angela Brown, the district's Anti-Racism and Diversity Consultant has been integral in consulting, writing and editing the 4REAL School resources. "The VSB is excited for this opportunity to implement 4REAL School through grade 6 to 12 cross curricular subject areas." Brown says. "4REAL School engages youth intellectually, compassionately, and globally through art, music, culture and digital media. It empowers students to critically examine various perspectives and world views and to become agents of change in order to make a positive contribution to the world."

Peter Gouzouasis, Professor, UBC Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, reviewed the teaching guides. "4REAL School offers students a powerful curriculum elaborated through meaningful and aesthetic images and music that excite students about their learning," he says.

4REAL School developer and teacher Melahnie Moodie says 4REAL School is being made available to teachers and students at a time when global education is more important than ever. "4REAL looks at issues through the hearts and minds of young leaders who are implementing community-based solutions," says Moodie. "As a result of this combination of global awareness, local engagement and leadership, 4REAL School is already high in demand with educators throughout North America. The multimedia and pop culture-infused content has also made it a hit with the students."

In addition to exploring other countries, 4REAL includes a local episode with actress Eva Mendes that takes place in the Downtown Eastside. Issues examined include homelessness, mental health and addiction. 4REAL Vancouver features the work of community activist Liz Evans and her organization, the Portland Hotel Society.

4REAL, produced by Vancouver production company, Direct Current Media, is airing on MTV Canada, and has aired on CTV, on CW in the U.S., as well as globally in 166 countries in 34 languages.

At the launch, workshops will be offered for teachers to implement 4REAL School. Additionally, in the keynote presentation, 4REAL co-creators, Sol Guy and Josh Thome, will share their powerful journey of how they followed their passion to create 4REAL.

Thome has been presenting 4REAL School to students throughout the Lower Mainland and across Canada for the past year.

"It's great to see young people so excited to learn about the leaders and how they are addressing challenges," says Thome. "4REAL School is the ideal way for students to learn about how they too can make a difference."

4REAL School is available through Distribution Access, Canada's largest education distributor.

Event: 4REAL School Launch: Global Education Resources for a New Generation

Date: Friday, February 20, 2009

Time: AM SESSION: 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Britannia Secondary School Auditorium

(1001 Cotton Drive Vancouver, B.C. Canada)

Outline for the day

8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Introductions & Keynote presentations

10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.: Break

11 a.m.-1 p.m.: 4REAL School implementation sessions

1 p.m. Adjournment

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