

# localnews

## ■ COMMUNITY

# Sandboe creates two new murals for school

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Local artist Suzanne Sandboe unveiled two new murals she painted for the Robert W. Zahara school in Sexsmith on Friday.

The school asked Sandboe for paintings representing an outdoor theme. The two 8x8-foot acrylic paintings took the artist six months to complete.

"I was very pleased to do this for the school," said Sandboe who is a member of the Federation of Canadian Artists, Alberta Society of Artists, and Peace Watercolour Society.

She shared some of her insight on art with students at the unveiling.

"I first realized that I had a talent for drawing in Grade 2," Sandboe told Grade 2 students, who were in attendance for the unveiling. "I would draw as much as I could, and as time went on, I got better and better."

Both paintings are landscapes of Tumbler Ridge, B.C. One is of the walk leading up to Kinuseo Falls, the other is a view of the falls itself.

"I received a lot of 'ooh's and ahhs' from the students," Sandboe noted. "Obviously they like it and they are excited to have it in their school, I'm happy with the reaction."

Sandboe's art can be found all over the local area. She has painted the Sexsmith Arena ice logo for nearly 25 years.

About 15 years ago, Sandboe painted a dinosaur mural directly on the wall where the new murals hang.

"The school was freshened up with a new coat of paint, instead of keeping the murals on the wall and fixing them up, we decided that we wanted new paintings on a board," said school principal Sherry Alstad.

"If the school was to ever repaint again, we can just remove the murals and hang them back up afterwards."

"I had the chance to be in the school when Suzanne brought in the paintings, they were overwhelming with colours," said Alstad. "For our atrium, this will be a lovely place that children can come to read, they will feel like they're right in the forest."

This year the theme for education week is 'the heart of our community'.

"What we have discovered in Sexsmith that the heart of our community is art. Over the past two weeks we have invited artists to come work with our students, giving them demonstrations and insight," Alstad.

After the unveiling Sandboe, along with a sculpture and wood carver, met with the students in the gymnasium to demonstrate some art techniques.

"We want to show our students that there is more to life than just hockey, here our students can play hockey, but they can also paint," Alstad noted.

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Robert W. Zahara school principal Sherry Alstad (left) and local artist, Suzanne Sandboe unveil the new murals at the school in Sexsmith on Friday.