



Slave Lake business sector helps make a dream come true for E.G. Wahlstrom School students



Forty-five students and five staff supervisors from E.G. Wahlstrom School in Slave Lake pose for a photo with local business sponsors on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010 after receiving complimentary tickets to attend a live NHL game (featuring the Oilers and the visiting Dallas Stars) at Rexall Place in Edmonton Jan. 22, 2010. The sponsorship package, which also includes tickets to an Edmonton Oil Kings game in February, was made possible through the generosity of four Slave Lake businesses, including Murdock Energy Inc., Silvertip Rentals/Fishing Tools, Spilak Tank Truck Service Ltd. and Penn West Petroleum Ltd.

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Slave Lake, AB – A total of 45 students and five staff from E.G. Wahlstrom School in Slave Lake will get the rare opportunity to watch a live Edmonton Oilers National Hockey League (NHL) home game at Rexall Place later this month, courtesy of Slave Lake’s business sector.

Four businesses (including Murdock Energy Inc., Silvertip Rentals/Fishing Tools, Spilak Tank Truck Service Ltd. and Penn West Petroleum Ltd.) recently teamed up to make the experience possible for local students by agreeing to absorb the cost of 50 tickets to an NHL game in Edmonton on Jan. 22, 2010 featuring the visiting Dallas Stars against the Oilers. The package (valued at between \$5,000 and \$6,000) also includes 50 additional tickets to attend an Edmonton Oil Kings Western Hockey League home game in February of this year as well as High Prairie School Division transportation costs for busing.

“This is just our way of demonstrating our support as good corporate citizens by giving something positive back to the community,” says Darin Busk of Murdock Energy Inc., who credits the idea to company owner Larry Andersen.

“Larry got the initial ball rolling and it just snowballed from there,” says Busk, adding that it didn’t take long to get a firm commitment from the other three sponsorship partners.

“The response we received from them (Doug Albers of Silvertip Rentals/Fishing Tools, Carl Chykerda of Penn West Petroleum Ltd. and Darren Spilak of Spilak Tank Truck Service Ltd.) was absolutely fantastic. It was really great to see all four companies step up to the plate in an effort to make this experience possible for the kids.”

Michael Snedden, vice-principal at E.G. Wahlstrom School, says the school is extremely appreciative and grateful to each businesses for its generous support.

“This is another fine example of our business sector’s ongoing commitment to education and the community,” Snedden explains, adding that the shared level of excitement among students sums it up the best.

“The majority of students have never had the opportunity to witness a live professional hockey game before, so this is something pretty special to them. They’re really looking forward to it.”

The process of selecting the lucky 45 students to attend the two hockey games was determined through random draws held in each classroom. All eligible students were required to have consent forms filled out by their parents/guardians and returned to the school prior to the draws taking place.

“We chose three kids from each class and held a second draw for staff to pick five supervisors,” Snedden adds.

That draw resulted in the selection of Snedden, Wendy Hook, (educational assistant), teachers Amanda Williams and Debbie Reid and secretary Shelly Cuthbert.

All 45 students and the five staff supervisors met with sponsors on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010 to receive their tickets (and coupons to enter a draw for the chance to win an autographed Oilers hockey stick at the Jan. 22 NHL game) prior to posing for a group photo to commemorate the special occasion.

Busk says the biggest reward was seeing the excitement and anticipation in the eyes of students as they held onto their tickets.

“They were pretty happy judging by the smiles on their faces,” Busk says. “That’s really what it’s all about.”

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For more information please contact E.G. Wahlstrom School Principal Donna Melvin at 780-849-3539 or HPSD No. 48 Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-3337.