

DAREarts Literature Day

‘Reflect from the Past to create the Future’ - teen style

Photo and Story Opportunity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –February 8, 2011

Toronto, Ontario – DAREarts Literature Day, Tuesday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 pm will be held at the Gladstone Library. Thirty DAREarts Grade 8 teens will create their personal family memoirs, mentored by Monika Stevenson (Emmy Award winning former producer ‘60 Minutes’) and her website myfamilymemoirs.com. These teens will have an opportunity to publish their own story while simultaneously addressing their own identity for the future. This begins with each teen collecting three to four images that he/she feels represents him/herself along with a written piece of why ‘they are DAREarts’. Then they structure these writings into a beautiful piece that reflects their stories through myfamilymemoirs.com with DAREarts values: Discipline, Action, Responsibility, Excellence. The Gladstone Library is the perfect setting since its own past has been restored to create the future.

“The day’s strength is its ability to take the legacy of the past and, via technology, create one’s vision for the future,” states Geneviève Anthony, DAREarts Director of Urban Programs.

Come and witness stories such as this: *“One young man told of his idol and mentor, a great grandfather he has never met, a bishop in Jamaica, who has only one mattress for 14 children. Overcoming tremendous difficulties he kept a roof over their heads, food on the table and a great sense of humour. Great granddad valued most family and education, as does his great grandson who has been told by his mother that he is just like his idol.”* This story was shared through Monika from a previous Literature Day.

DAREarts ‘dares’ children to communicate through music, dance, drama, visual arts, architecture, fashion and literature. They build their self-confidence, courage and life skills that empower them to achieve their potential. Literature Days cover such topics as: renaissance storyboarding, short films, epic stories, science fiction, formal debating, editorial writing, storytelling and the internet. As well, the teens get acquainted with the Toronto Public Library, the Osbourne Collection of historic children’s books, the Merrill Collection at The Lillian H. Smith Branch and a tour of the CBC Museum.

The full circle of the DAREarts vision is to see these teens as delegates for their respective schools, returning to their school environment, empowered by the steps that they have taken to create this visual internet piece, to take a leadership role in sharing this experience with their peers. Please visit DAREarts at www.darearts.com

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For more information, or for media to attend this special screening, please contact:

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