

Nelson Rural students (some now attending JMH) had the experience of a lifetime attending the first ever We Day Atlantic Canada in Halifax on November 27. Students earned their way to We Day as you cannot buy a ticket to the event but must participate in a year of local and global action for a variety of charities. Teacher Ellen MacDonald and 28 students had the opportunity to meet and hear inspirational speakers and performers. Chosen as a profile school, Nelson Rural was highlighted in an article in the Halifax Chronicle Herald with the story included in the kits handed out to everyone in attendance, along with a book written by founder of Free the Children Craig Kielburger. The energy in the building was positively intense, a sea of lights like stars twinkling coming from light bracelets that were motion activated. The crowd danced, cried and screamed for each heartfelt and exciting performance. Performers included Hedley, Classified and the Kenyan Boys Choir along with motivational speakers Martin Luther King Jr. III, Michaëlle Jean, Molly Burke and Spencer West, who lost his legs at the age of five and who climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro using only his hands. MacDonald and four of her students were invited to the Dinner of Champions at the Halifax Delta and were able to spend time with the guests and performers as a result of their school's high level of participation in Free the Children's initiatives and campaigns. We Day is a platform for inspiring young people to become involved in creating positive change in their communities and beyond. Three local schools were invited and honoured for their fundraising efforts, Nelson, NSER and MVHS (as well as SMS and BHS). We Day encourages youth and educators to become involved and continue to support those in need both at home and around the world to make a better place for all. As well, it empowers youth to realize that small kindnesses and actions do make a difference.