Sandwich Secondary gives stage to talent
Students show their stuff

By Hailey Trealout
Editor

On Dec. 19, the halls of Sandwich Secondary School were quiet and abandoned. The gym however, was everything but as one student after another walked across the stage and showed their peers their talent. Admired their support as dancers, singers and musicians performed for all to see.

Grade 11 student, Mitchell Milanis also known as Yo-Jo, is a local rapper who has been in the music industry for about four years. For the talent show, Milanis performed a holiday special for his peers and received an abundance of feedback.

“Some kids don’t get the chance to show their talent and not everybody can just have a concert of go out and sing in public so a talent show gives them a chance to show a person’s talent to everyone and also make them more recognizable outside the school,” said Milanis. “It also helped me when I came into high school build my whole fan base when I started.”

One of the staff members took the stage, playing piano in the background with a large band of students to play Journey’s ‘Don’t Stop Believing’. The audience sang the famous lyrics along with the performers... almost sounding like a real concert. Just from the sound, you would never be able to tell one of the band members was born without hands.

Sandwich business teacher and life-long piano player, Mr. Rob Jasey said he didn’t want his presence to take away from the students, but being able to play with them was a privilege in itself.

“I think the show is great for the kids on stage because it’s a great confidence builder and it allows the audience to see what they can do themselves,” said Jasey. “Any opportunity that will take me out of that classic teaching environment where you can work with the students is a great experience... it’s great to know the kids on a different level. You should always strive to do your best and don’t stop believing.”

The pace of the show gave the students a chance to sing songs they knew, and watch excitedly during the ones they did not. An overhead next to the stage showed the ‘behind the scenes’ shots of behind the pianos, drums and wide angle stage shots during the performances.

One of the band performers was the drummer of a local band known as Red Legacy.

Grade 11 student, McKenzie Burrows has been drumming since he was six-years-old. He said the talent show not only helped him show his current skills, but to also build on them as an active band member.

“There are a lot of students who people don’t know have talent,” said Burrows. “Personally, the guitarist has a different style and I synced up differently than I do with my guitar player (in Red Legacy) so it’s completely different and it taught me new things on how to write and how to play. I enjoyed it a lot but it also stressed me out a lot, which taught me how to better prepare myself.”

Behind the scenes of the show, Milanis said it’s not always fun and games, even for someone with performing experience in front of an audience.

“I find the hardest part of a talent show is thinking about it the day before always gets you a little nervous but once I get up there, I’m not nervous at all. You just have to go out there and give it your best and not be afraid of the audience and just do what you do best to show them who you are.”

Sandwich Secondary students perform in front of their school at the Talent Show on Dec. 19.