

Macville will be featured on Mercer Report March 29

Macville Public School was the top elementary school in Canada when it came to raising money for Spread the Net, and that will be celebrated in the season finale of the Rick Mercer Report March 29.

Mercer and Plan International Canada are celebrating the winners of this year's Spread the Net Student Challenge, a friendly nationwide competition between schools that raises funds for malaria-preventing bed nets in Africa.

Macville raised \$11,455 for the cause, and Mercer was at the school last Tuesday to congratulate staff and students, film scenes of a musical video and, celebrate their outstanding efforts and school spirit..

As part of Plan International Canada's Spread the Net Student Challenge, more than 50 schools raised close to \$80,000 for bed nets that will prevent malaria-infected mosquitoes from biting children and their families at night.

Mosquitoes can be deadly, transmitting diseases like malaria to humans, killing close to two million people around the world every year. Malaria alone causes approximately 600,000 deaths annually, with 90 per cent of them in Africa and mostly among children younger than five.

?The young Canadians who participated in this year's Spread the Net Student Challenge have become a part of a bigger movement in the global fight against malaria,? Mercer said. ?I'm so inspired by all of the students across Canada and congratulate them on their creativity in raising funds and awareness for the cause. I look forward to meeting the winning schools and celebrating their incredible efforts in the season finale of the Rick Mercer Report.?

Since 2007, more than 750 elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools across Canada have participated in the Student Challenge, raising almost \$1.5 million for the fight against malaria.

?Through Plan International Canada's Spread the Net Student Challenge this year, passionate Canadian students showed a commitment to tackling global problems through local action. Their efforts are going a long way in preventing malaria by providing bed nets for children and their families in developing countries,? says Adam Graham, senior program manager at Plan International Canada. ?We congratulate all of the students across Canada who are changing the world by helping to save lives and raise awareness about these important issues in their own communities.?