

# Field trip to Capital changed students' perspective

It was a journey of firsts for 11 Kootenay students who took to the road to experience first-hand the history, geography and cultural mosaic of the province's Capital.

It was the first school field trip organized by teacher Susan Lindsay and the first in a decade undertaken by Edgewood Elementary School.

"What these kids learned, I would never have been able to deliver in the classroom," said Lindsay, adding that the majority of the students had never seen the ocean, ridden an escalator, gone to a movie theatre, stayed in a hotel or visited a world-class museum.

Seeing BC's Parliament Buildings amid spacious rotundas, stained glass windows designed for British monarchs, gilt plasterwork and historical artifacts brought a sense of wonder and enthusiasm to the students. But for nine-year-old Makayla, it was the towering white marble columns of the Legislative Library and the tiny almost-forgotten jail cell deep in the basement of the 111-year-old building



*Dressed in period costume, students from Edgewood Elementary pose by Queen Victoria's window.*

that captured her interest.

For Eclipse, 12, trip highlights included the massive rotunda beneath the 100-foot-high dome of the

Parliament Buildings with its murals and Italian marble columns. "I'm learning lots about BC and our history," she said. "Fort Langley was really cool and IMAX is the biggest screen I've ever seen."

"The whole trip was out of this world," Lindsay said. "The trip provided an educational eye-opening, world view experience that broadened their outlook and hopefully instilled the desire for continued learning."

Funding provided by the Provincial Capital Commission's student travel program was key, she said.

"This trip changed their whole perspective about BC and what it means to be a British Columbian. They discovered it was a thrill to be part of this province – the beauty and the enormity of it, the characters that went into the building of it and the vision some people had 150 years ago.

"I hope these children become those citizens that contribute to British Columbia in a way they would not have if they had not made this trip."