

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



Mill Creek Elective Highlight: TED Talk

This past week, Mill Creek students in David Sinopoli-Smith's TED Talk elective class presented their final project: a 5-minute TED Talk on any topic they find inspirational or motivating. Students work diligently throughout the 9-week course researching, writing, editing, creating visuals and rehearsing their professional presentations. "The overall goal of this elective is for students to showcase their passions," Sinopoli-Smith says. "Students walk away from this class knowing that everyone has a story to share, and we are all better people for hearing them."

From the [TED website](#): *TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.*

The Mill Creek TED Talk course, available to both 7th and 8th graders, gives students the opportunity to explore hundreds of different topics, allowing interest and passion to guide their final subject choice. To prepare for their final presentation, students watch various examples of TED talks and discuss the how presenters deliver their message engaging and powerful ways. Students then research, script and present their own talk, connecting content standards to meaningful practices of effective storytelling.

Four 7th grade students opted to present their TED Talk to a larger audience outside of the classroom. On Wednesday, they gave their talks to an audience of around 50 students and adults in the Mill Creek cafeteria. Ruaraidh Imfeld talked about *"The Past, Present, and Future of Space Travel,"* Karl Fink gave *"The History of Candy,"* Lloyd Brand presented *"Social Media's Effect on Teens,"* and Ewan Imfeld discussed *"Human Irrationality."*

"Everyone in the class did a remarkable job," Sinopoli-Smith shared. "This is just another way students are able to learn more about themselves, each other, and the world around them."

