



Photo by MITCH CRAIB

The St. Albans City School SETDA Presentation Team (Gabriela, Mrs. Borst, Molly, Peter Drescher, Mrs. Levine, Marie, Chloe, Charlie and Nicolas) looks on as Peter Drescher shares insights into the presentation.

Getting ready to present at SETDA 2018 for the Student Voices Award

By JOAN CAVALLO

Principal St. Albans City School

ST. ALBANS – In June of this year, St. Albans City School received a National Award for our use of technology. This Award, combined with a grant, will allow us to take six students to Washington D.C. to present before the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) Leadership Summit and Education Forum on November 5th. The Award was based on our School's extensive use of technology as shown with the School Mall project last year. Our School was recommended for this award by Peter Drescher, Vermont's State Educational Technology Director. Peter recommended St. Albans City School and shared that "technology is just part of the culture of the School."

Selecting six students out of nearly 800 would not be an easy task. We started with an application process. Students

who were interested in representing the School needed to submit their application including a letter or video explaining why they should represent our School, and an exemplar component of their Personal Learning Plan e-portfolio. Fifty students from first through eighth grade applied. A committee was formed to determine which set of six would represent our School. This was still not easy; All of our students had taken part in our School Mall Project last year, and all of the students who entered put a great deal of time and energy into their submissions. Fortunately, we learned that our School would also host a webinar in December on our use of technology. This allowed the committee to pick an additional six students from those who applied to do the webinar.

Once the participants were selected, a series of permission slips went home and a family meeting was held where we discussed the details behind the three-

day trip. With the logistics out of the way, we are now in the process of creating the presentation and helping students feel confident in presenting to over 200 technology directors and dignitaries. Our presentation will share the story of our School, Community and our use of technology. The presentation will open and close with short videos, which will be created by Raider Report, our School's video production team. Raider Report is helping to include all students that applied and were not selected for the trip or webinar.

On October 3rd, the team shared their presentation outline with Peter Drescher. Peter took time to talk with each member of the team. He gave students pointers about what technology directors are interested in hearing, and shared details of the event. The students had questions that he was able to answer, and they learned more about what they would be part of in just

over a month.

Students are diligently working several mornings each week on their part of the presentation to get us from outline to a final presentation. They are visiting the Maker Space and working with teachers Erica Bertucci and Grace Borst to gain increased experience using the technology they will be discussing. This practice is giving them opportunities to feel confident in their knowledge when they present in November. We want them to be able to talk from experience as they represent our School, our State, and elementary school students nationwide.

St. Albans City School is proud of all of our students who made this Award possible. We wish we could send more students to Washington DC in November; however, we know these six students who were chosen will represent our School and their fellow students with "Raider" Pride.