



PARA Ski & Track Star Sarah Gillies Returns to Island Lake PS

FACE The Future school visit program, a Canadian Paralympic Committee and Canadian Olympic Committee initiative, comes to Orangeville November 8, 2017

Sarah Gillies is one of the fastest rising stars in the world of Paralympic Skiing. The Orangeville native is also a former Island Lake Public School student. On November 8 she will share her inspirational story and celebrate her amazing 2017 season with the students and staff at her former school.

Gillies, who is currently a tenth grade student at Orangeville District Secondary School, was born with fibular hemimelia and became a right lower leg amputee at seven months old. Her trophy cabinet already contains two Canada Games medals in Alpine skiing, and an Ontario high school (OFSAA) track and field record in the 800m ambulatory division.

Gillies was also recently awarded a prestigious \$10,000 FACE (Fuelling Athlete and Coaching Excellence) grant by Petro-Canada and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Grants are awarded to athletes (\$5,000 to the athlete and \$5,000 to their coach) deemed to have great potential to represent Canada at Olympic and Paralympic Games. Only 55 athletes across the country received the honour. Past recipients include Olympic and Paralympic medallists Patrick Chan, Hayley Wickenheiser, Rosie MacLennan, Kristina Groves and Mark Tewksbury. Recipients with exceptionally inspirational stories, like Gillies, are also invited to make FACE The Future school visits.

Gillies is a great example of how positivity is an excellent way to overcome obstacles - a message she will share with the current students at Island Lake. After speaking with students at the November 8 assembly (beginning at 11:15 a.m.) Gillies will also help present a special framed photo to the school on behalf of the FACE program. For more information on the event or FACE The Future school visits, contact Brian Findlay at 416-802-4062.