

NEWS LOCAL

Tenille 'plays it forward' for Fairview High students



By Chris Eakin, Fairview Post

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Tenille during her Playing it Forward performance at Fairview High School Oct. 16. (Chris Eakin/Fairview Post)

Peace Country songstress Tenille made a stop at Fairview High School Oct. 16, as part of her Play it Forward Tour putting on an inspiring and high-energy show that had students clapping along with the music.

The 18-year-old from Grande Prairie is an up and coming country music star, having just graduated from Peace Wapiti Academy this past June. She has a sparkle in her eye, a smile on her face and an obvious enthusiasm for her present project.

Tenille explained that when she graduated, she decided she could either go for "post-secondary education or try creating some kind of vision" that would take her out and get her more experience and exposure in country music.

“It has turned out to be such a huge vision and it turned out to be so much more than I originally thought,” she said.

“This Playing it Forward Tour is kind of the plan for now,” she said, adding it will take her all across Alberta in a tour that started in Peace River Oct. 15 and will end Nov. 16 in Grande Prairie. Her performance at FHS was the second stop on the tour.

“This is our run to make sure everything is lined up and try things out, try new things and get rolling with the rest of the project” she said. In March Tenille will be hitting the road with a cross-Canada tour.

“I truly feel that so much of this tour is an experience and education and I’m so grateful to be learning from it,” she said.

At every school she stops at the staff will have picked three students as leaders who will receive a \$75 cheque from her, which they can use to “play it forward” at the school for whatever they choose. They will be asked to post their choice on her website and at the end, their names will go into a draw for a \$10,000 cheque. Whichever student receives the cheque can give half of it to the charity of their choice and the other half to some aspect of their school.

Tenille pointed out that she has a large number of sponsors who made this possible – she went to them and explained what she wanted to do, they agreed it was a worthwhile idea and gave her the resources to set it up and get rolling.

She is accompanied by guitarist Bethany Earl and keyboard player/backup vocalist Amber Bauer as well as road manager Suzanne Sagmeister.

At Fairview High she put on a enthusiastic, high energy show, moving around the room so that everybody could see and hear her up close. Her songs were about inspiration, love, growing up and other things.

She said that she has written about 100 songs, although 70 of them will probably never make it into an album. She has worked with different songwriters including Duane Steele and is very serious about making this career choice work.

She isn’t forgetting about furthering her education either as she plans on taking some correspondence courses in business and marketing starting in January.

Her debut album, *Real*, came out in 2011 and she has another album in the works. *Real* hit #13 on the Soundscan Country Music Charts in its first week out and Tenille is the youngest singer ever nominated for Female Artist of the Year at the Canadian Country Music Awards that year.

She earned the Alberta Country Music Awards 2012 Female Artist of the Year.

This fall she also received the Slaughter Humanitarian of the Year award at the CCMA’s this year for her work fundraising for Slave Lake, Haiti and Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter in Grande Prairie, the only youth emergency shelter north of Edmonton.