

NEWS LOCAL

Vermilion students meet a rising star

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The students and staff of VES took a break from classes Monday morning to enjoy a special performance with an inspiring message.

Tenille and her band visited the school as a part of their “Play It Forward” tour.

Tenille is the youngest ever CCMA nominee for female vocalist of the year, and recently won the CCMA’s humanitarian award for her good works.

“That was such an incredible honour to receive in front of an industry that’s built on so many big hearts,” said Tenille.

“I love that country music calls for that humanitarian spirit and it’s really cool to be a part of that family and an honour to be recognized by them.”

Although she’s only 18 years old, Tenille is not new to the music industry.

“I think I’ve been singing since I could walk and talk, but I started singing in festivals and locally in weddings when I was about five,” said Tenille.

“And I picked up the guitar and started writing songs when I was 13. It’s been a huge part of my life for awhile.”

The “Play It Forward” tour is her first time out on the road. The Grand Prairie native decided to stay in her home province for her first tour, making her way from Northern Alberta through to the southern half.

“So many things are an exciting part of this. This whole journey and just watching how one opportunity just sort of leads to another, that’s really exciting for me watching everything unfold,” said Tenille.

“It’s really cool to be able to have a vision for something and to be able to use a passion of what you love to actually bring it to a reality.”

The goal of the tour is to inspire young people to find what their passionate about and use it to better themselves and their communities, just as Tenille is doing with her talent.

“With the play it forward presentation our goal is to inspire youth to do what they do best, which is play. With whatever that is, sports or arts or whatever they’re passionate about, and then be able to play it forward,” said Tenille. “So we want to really encourage that passion finding, trying new things and finding what you love, setting goals, chasing dreams and then making a difference with all of that.”

In March she will be starting an even bigger tour because of the great response they’ve been getting in Alberta.

“In March we’re going to start-up the Canadian tour of the Play It Forward project, so we’re going to start, probably in B.C. and make our way all the way across and be able to be in new areas and meet new people,” said Tenille.

“I’m really excited.”

She said she feels very lucky to be able to travel around with such great people, which include one musician from Vermilion, Amber Bauer.

“I’m really grateful that it’s such an amazing team and really wonderful ladies to be sharing so much time and space with,” said Tenille.

“It’s really great being able to work with them and have them be so passionate about this tour too, so it’s been a blast.”

Tenille has a song out on the radio currently, called “Starts With You”, and will be releasing a new CD in March 2013.

For more information on the ‘Play It Forward’ tour visit www.tenille.ca.