

## **Remembrance Day Ceremony: Lest we forget**

Bond Academy Remembrance Day ceremony was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am in the auditorium and was attended by teachers, staff, parents and students.

The ceremony started with the Junior and Senior Choirs singing O Canada.

In his opening message, Mr. Jeffrey Farber, the Secondary school principal reminded the students why they were there. “Because we need to connect as members of a Canadian community. Because we need to remember as citizens of a nation,” said he.

The principal stressed that it was not just a distant memory as World War I or World War II. More than 1.5 million Canadians have served overseas – more than 100,000 died in the cause, and most recently, 133 in Afghanistan. He told the audience that those soldiers have sacrificed their lives and their future so that we and others around the world can live in peace with freedoms.

“This not necessarily a History Book story of older men and women who we may not be able to connect with at the outset. It is about young and middle-aged men and women who, like your parents, aunts and uncles, sacrificed their lives for all of us.”

“We are here to remember because we must; to preserve the sanctity of lives lost and the freedoms gained,” he concluded.

Then came three Grade 4 students recited their poems. First was Elizabeth Mackey, reciting the poem “*Poppy*”, followed by Jordan Graham’s “*Remembrance Day*” and Harrison Roy’s “*Little Poppy*”.

After that, Captain Paul Preikschas, a member of the Canadian Forces Reserve, explained why we should wear a poppy and attend the Remembrance Day ceremony. “We must remember those who went to war and did not return. They paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure that this great country of ours remains free and democratic.”

“On this one day, we give them two minutes of silence. That’s all they ask of us,” he said.

Then Captain Preikschas showed the video, “*A Pittance of Time*”. It was written by

Terry Kelly when he witnessed a customer in a store, trying to engage the store's clerk in a conversation while everyone in the store was observing 2 minutes of silence on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

After showing the video, it was 11:00 am. The participants paid tribute with two minutes of silence to the country's fallen soldiers. Ella Avanesian of Grade 7 and Jordan Heemsoth of Grade 3 then laid the wreath.

In the closing remarks, Mr. John Healey cited last week's lockdown as an example to illustrate the courage of the soldiers. He said the school was lockdown for two minutes because there was a shooting in the neighbourhood. Some students were scared and some even cried. He asked the audience to imagine those soldiers who were in Afghanistan. Their lives were threatened with shot 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, yet many of them went there voluntarily, not only once, but twice and even 3 times.