

Three geologists from Red Pine Exploration visited local schools in Wawa to discuss their work, as well as an overview of geologic processes, rock types, minerals, fossils, and the importance of mining for everyday life. Geologists visited Michipicoten High School on April 3, 2024 and presented to twenty-two ninth-grade students. The following day, April 4, 2024, they visited both École Saint-Joseph and Sir James Dunn Public School, where they presented to eighteen fifth-grade students and seventeen third- and fourth-grade students, respectively. On April 25, they returned to École Saint-Joseph and presented to twenty third- and fourth-grade students.

Following the presentation, students participated in hands-on activities, where they applied their new knowledge of the structure of the earth and the rock cycle and explored mineral properties and various types of fossils. The material presented was new to most, if not all, students. The students were engaged throughout the entirety of the presentation and asked questions that led to broader class discussions. The hands-on component was a lot of fun for both the students and the geologists. The students were quick to explore the rocks, minerals, and fossils, make observations about what they were seeing, and apply their new knowledge. They often drew comparisons from what they see in their every day lives to the rocks and minerals presented to them and felt confident about their ability to classify common rocks and minerals in the future.

Thank you to the Saint Mary's University Geology Department in Halifax, Nova Scotia for loaning parts of their rock, mineral, and fossil collection for this project.



Fifth-grade students from École Saint-Joseph participating in the hands-on activities. Geologist Alex Grey (left) teaching students about the structure of the Earth, and types of fossils; Geologist Karina Martinez (right) teaching students about the rock cycle.



Fifth-grade students from École Saint-Joseph participating in the hands-on activities. Geologist Kerstin Landry explaining mineral properties to students.

