

## FrontRow gets top marks from students



*Photo by Peter McCusker*

*Grade 5 teacher Alberte Jean-Jacques of St. Jean Baptiste School wears a broadcast device which allows her students to hear her every word through speakers in the ceiling. Students Olivia Nestorowich, Chloe Dobbins and Kirolos Kilada hold one of the microphones they may use to ask questions to the teacher.*

**By:** Julie Slack

**December 19, 2008 08:08 PM** - One Grade 5 class in Mississauga is abuzz, and the teacher couldn't be happier.

Using a new FrontRow Classroom Amplification System, which through the use of microphones and ceiling speakers makes every spoken word that much clearer, students at Saint Jean Baptiste School are talking — and hearing — more than ever.

As a result, Alberte Jean-Jacques' 28 students are excelling, showing improved marks.

"Everyone can hear what I'm saying and I feel like I participate more now," said student Chloe Dobbins. She said her quiet voice was often not heard before, but now it's crystal clear anywhere in the classroom.

Under the pilot project offered by FrontRow, which has its Canadian headquarters in Mississauga, both students and teacher use a microphone when speaking. Students feel like they're sitting in the front row, despite ever-present background noise.

Kirolos Kilada, another of Jean-Jacques' pupils, said he can hear better. Also, his teacher, who's outfitted with a wireless microphone, no longer has to scream.

"She doesn't lose her voice and then have to call in sick because of it," he said. "I like using the microphone because it's interesting to hold and easier to do a presentation."

Classmate Olivia Nestorowich said because everyone can hear her more clearly, "...I want to participate."

The system is also being used in a Grade 1 classroom at the French Catholic school, and is especially important for children, who are unable to rely on context to fill in gaps when they miss words or parts of conversations.

Nadia Santoli, FrontRow media relations coordinator, said the system is also particularly useful for students learning new languages.

Each amplification system costs about \$2,000, and they're being used by about 3,200 school boards in Canada and the U.S., said Santoli.

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