

**With the New Year here, our staff photographers shared their favourite images in a look back at 2007. We conclude the series today.**

**Photos by  
Sabrena  
Mackenzie**



**ANGELIKA**

I went to Queen Elizabeth High to photograph a terminally ill Polish girl, Angelika Olwert whose dying wish was to come to Canada and see a Canadian high school and its teens. I was expecting a sad, emotional picture of a dying girl. I think the picture does convey a lot of emotion, but the surprise was the emotion is joy. This girl was very tense and camera-shy and could not speak a word of English. I was resigned to a fairly boring picture. As the last part of her tour she participated in a drama class with the kids and started to dance, and she literally lost herself in the moment, which is pretty amazing when you consider that any one of her moments could have been her last. I think this photo captures a very pure happiness that doesn't require English (or Polish) to explain what she is feeling. It was a good lesson for me in many ways. We really should grab hold of any opportunity to feel joyful, even if only for a moment.