



ACE·bc

ACE NOTES

ACEbc Action Plan – Advocating for Community Education and Community Schools

At the ACEbc Board meeting of June 4, 2010, the following motion was passed to initiate some proactive steps to promote the valuable work being done in community school across BC:

“That ACEbc will develop an action plan to promote community education by developing supportive relationships with agencies and organizations, relevant ministries, government at all levels, all political parties, et al.”

At its September meeting, the Board approved an Action Plan to implement the motion of June 4. Steps in this plan include:

❖ *Submit budget input to government prior to October 15, 2010 through the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. (Details at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations.)*

An outline of the ACEbc submission is included in this

newsletter on page 13.

❖ *Promote ACEbc at the October 21-22 Conference in Surrey.*

We have a small budget for promotional materials and a revised ACEbc brochure, and new and updated resources are on our web site.

❖ *Assemble a toolkit of materials that can be handed out and/or accessed on the ACEbc web site.*

Materials could include brochures, background

... (continued on page 3)

OCTOBER 2010

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Poll shows strong public support for community social services

A new poll confirming British Columbians’ support for restoring funding to community social services is welcome news to a sector that has endured significant cuts and reductions during the economic downturn.

Sixty-five per cent of British Columbians surveyed in a recent poll agree that current funding levels are too low for community social services such as daycare, seniors’ care, employment services, supports to families and children, help for vulnerable populations, and residential care.

Almost 90 per cent agree that community social services make their communities a safer, better place to live, and that such preventive services... (continued on p. 6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I continue to use the opportunity I have as President of ACEbc to connect with people in community schools from around the province, I am amazed by the passion with which coordinators talk about what they are proud of.

Sue Lamb at Halfmoon Bay Community School invited me to come and visit. I was struck by the integration of so many services that are woven into the community school fabric in a seamless and sustainable way: 3 -5 year old childcare, school age care, a StrongStart centre, youth programs, and Sue's office right in the middle of the hub. While we walked through the school Sue talked about Sprok Kids, a mountain biking program. When I stopped by an intermediate classroom I saw 6 spin cycles in the back of the classroom. On a typical Friday 35 students and 15 adults spend the afternoon riding the trails that they have been involved in developing. (slamb@sd46.bc.ca)

Joanne Ellis from W.E.Graham Community Service Society is proud of the youth who planned and executed the "Slocan Youth Celebration" in the spring of 2010. The youth are continuing to work with the McCreary Centre Society. Two of the girls will be presenting at the upcoming "Champions for Children and Youth Summit" in Vancouver. It is indeed a rare opportunity for rural youth to engage with policy makers at the provincial level. (coordinator@wegcss.org)

From one of the newest coordinators in the province, Catherine Thompson: *"I'm proud of slowly figuring my way around the community. Bamfield is a physically divided community, with people living on either side of the inlet and the Anacla community 12 kilometres down the road. Our first event, a Harvest Dinner and AGM was a great success, everyone came together and our new board has members from all parts of the community, I'm happy to see everyone getting involved!"* (cthompson@bamfield.ca)

Jessica Land, King George Secondary Team - Vancouver, finds the youth leadership in their community pretty amazing. It's taken a lot of nurturing over 5 years, but 22 matches have been made with students through Big

Brothers. Being a coordinator takes lots of flexibility and the willingness to try new things. (jjland@vsb.bc.ca).

Twyla Hunt from Langley Meadows says that people feel good about being in the community school and volunteering to make it better, the facility is used 7 days a week and community run (thunt@sd35.bc.ca).

Lawrence Ryan from Stoney Creek in Burnaby shares a similar theme and works to create an environment where people have opportunities to volunteer and give back to their community. (lawrence.ryan@sd41.bc.ca)

At John Barsby in Nanaimo, Shannon Wilson has been involved in keeping school space alive through partnerships with local social service agencies that are leasing space, sharing and connecting. (swilson@sd68.bc.ca)

In conclusion I wanted to share some powerful questions that I have been impacted by from the writings of Peter Block, author of Community: The Structure of Belonging, Powerful questions are more transformative than answers and create space for something new.

- *What is the story about your experiences working with community that you hear yourself most often telling?*
- *What are the payoffs you receive from telling this story?*
- *What are the strengths you draw from telling it?*
- *What is your attachment to this story costing you?*

In Block's mind a great question has 3 characteristics:

- *it is ambiguous, you must bring your own personal meaning to it*
- *it is personal*
- *it evokes anxiety and has an edge*

Looking forward to seeing so many of you this week in Surrey and continuing the conversations about the important questions that are opening up opportunities in your community.

Cheers,

Janey Talbot

janey.talbot@sd41.bc.ca 604-664-8716

ACEbc Action Plan – *continued from cover*

documents, links to other organizations and resources, etc. The intention is to make the ACEbc web site a valued source for information and connections. Resources now include a revised ACEbc brochure, the new document Principals and Community Schools and updated versions of Investing in Community Schools 2010 and Advocating for Community Education and Community Schools 2010.

❖ *Promote opportunities ACEbc members have had to raise our profile.* One recent event attended by ACEbc Director Bill Preston was

the Roundtable of Provincial Social Services Organizations, reported on in this newsletter. Coordinators across the province are encouraged to make others aware of special opportunities or events in your district. We are considering an ACEbc Blog as a useful way to easily share these activities.

❖ *Link with like-minded organizations that will support our goals by identifying specific board members or other members who will be the liaisons with those organizations.* Suggested

organizations included First Call, SPARC and others.

❖ *Contact both government and opposition MLAs in our efforts to raise awareness of ACEbc's work in community education and community schools.* We welcome feedback from across the province on our efforts and encourage all members to support our actions and to let us know of other efforts you have underway.

Submitted by Don Reimer, for the ACEbc Board.



ACEbc Directory of Community Schools

The fall update of our Directory is nearly done – if you know of any changes from last spring, please pass them along to Don Reimer dwqb@shaw.ca. You can check the spring edition of the Directory on our web site at www.acebc.org. The updated directory will be posted to our web site shortly after the Conference on October 21-22, 2010.

New Westminster Community Schools and MCFD are Excited to Offer "Connect" Parent Program

Connect is a 10 week program that uses the attachment theory to help parents and caregivers of pre-teens and teens who are struggling to understand and respond to difficult behaviour.

Parents meet in small groups with two trained group leaders for one hour each week.

Each session provides parents with new information about parent-teen relationship and adolescent development.

Parents watch role-plays and try exercises that open new choices for responding to their teen's difficult behaviour.

Parents receive handouts

following each session with key points to remember.

For more information, contact Dan Kalivoda. District Community School Coordinator SD40 - New Westminster School District at dkalivoda@sd40.bc.ca



Summer Camps Make the Most of Community Partnerships



Blueberry Creek Community School in Partnership with SD#20 Kootenay Columbia offered a number of camps this summer. We were able to work with quality staff and tap into the resources of the community to stretch our scarce dollars and provide a wonderful camp experience to more than 200 students, many deemed at risk.

Aboriginal Art Camps - using the Infusion model students ages 6 - 9 took part in a one week camp of art and storytelling. There were 24 participants. 50% were of aboriginal heritage. Held at BCCS, staff included BC Certified teachers and the aboriginal cultural coordinator. Funded in part by Columbia Power Corporation.

Musical Theatre Camp - using the Infusion model students ages 8 - 13 took part in a one week camp of singing and dancing based on "Flash Mob." There were 22 participants. We were excited to have a number of boys aged 12 & 13. Held at Trail Middle School. Staff included BC Certified teachers.

Science Camp - 12 participants ages 6 - 11 took part in one week of science demonstrations and hands on activities that complemented the Ministry curriculum. Held at Kinnaird Elementary. Staff included a BC Certified teacher. Students were excited to have a visit from Mr. Naka.

Aboriginal Girl's Camp - 9 girls ages 12 - 17 attended one week of camp where they made drums, went on nature walks and participated in team building activities where they worked on building social skills, conflict resolution and were given an opportunity to connect with their aboriginal heritage. They were able to plan activities and learned about nutrition through food selection and cooking activities. Participants came from Fruitvale to Castlegar. Instructors included the Aboriginal Cultural Coordinator and a drug and alcohol counsellor. Participants were picked up and delivered

back home, provided with all food, supplies and equipment. This was a cost free program. Funded by SD#20, CBT, Freedom Quest and BCCS. Held at BCCS.

At Risk Youth Camp - 9 boys 13 - 17 years old attended one week of camp where they went mountain biking, hiking, swimming, rock climbing and kayaking. They also participated in team building activities where they worked on building social skills, conflict resolution and anger management. Participants came from Rossland to Castlegar. Instructors included a youth activity worker and a drug and alcohol counselor. Participants were picked up and delivered back home, provided with all food, supplies and equipment. This was a cost free program. Funded by SD#20, CBT, Freedom Quest and BCCS. Held at various venues.



Summer Reading Program - 66 children ages 3 -12 participated in a program that taught and maintained reading skills over the summer months. They took part in games, crafts, and stories based on weekly themes. Together they read more than 1500 books. This was a cost free program. Held at BCCS.

Summer Day camps - 54 students attended camp with daily themes that ran from 8:00 am to 6:00 p.m. The students were ages 6 - 12. They also went on many field trips to local sights, beaches and parks. One day a week was spent at a local senior's center. A staff ratio of one to 8 kept the participants engaged in a safe, nurturing environment for the summer months.

*** All programs with the exception of day camp were provided free for students of aboriginal heritage or deemed to be at risk.

For more information, contact Bev George, Blueberry Creek Community School Coordinator at bgeorge@sd20.bc.ca



Neighbourhoods and Learning – Success for Students

Neighbourhoods, communities, villages; no matter what you call them it has always been clear that it takes one to raise a child. It's equally clear that it takes one to teach a child. From the one-room school house to Community Schools and onto Neighbourhood Learning Centres, schools that have addressed the needs of students beyond the classroom, that have started to bring the community closer, have reaped the benefits in student achievement.



The Ministry of Education sees schools and districts across the province doing great work to build community connections. In Boundary, eight Family Centres are located close to schools, providing family, community and health support services. They are working with multiple ministries and many community partners to build everything from dental treatment programs to family activity nights.

With a co-located public library and recreation facilities, the Likely Community School in Cariboo-Chilcotin School District is used year-round for everything from public health services to job-related training and plays host to all manner of community programs from arts to literacy and even a community walking program.

At Shoreline Community Middle School in Victoria, a local garden club has joined forces with the school (see story p.17) . Student volunteers help elderly members set up for their meetings and plant shows. The club members work with the students to build a school garden, teaching them about caring for the plants and the soil. This new connection with the elder generation focuses on new-found respect between diverse community members, allows everyone involved to get their hands dirty while seeing real food grow through one's own efforts.

In whatever way that works, with whatever tools at hand, communities across the province are reconnecting through schools, making school a better place for students and families. The Ministry of Education applauds the work of the Community Schools around BC, and we are very excited by the potential for Neighbourhood Learning Centres to build on and continue this work.

*Submitted by Twila Lavender, Policy Analyst, Neighbourhood Learning Centres, Ministry of Education.
For more information, contact Twila at twila.lavender@gov.bc.ca.*



A NEW POLL...(continued from cover page)

reduce the cost and societal burden of family breakdown and crisis intervention down the line.

"It's great to see that British Columbians really recognize what's important about social services," says Doug Hayman of the Federation of Community Social Services and Board Voice Society of B.C. "There's a tendency sometimes to see these services as frills - supports that are nice to have when times are good, but not essential. That couldn't be farther from the truth.

And it's pretty clear from these poll findings that British Columbians know that."

The Angus Reid poll was conducted in August on behalf of an affiliation of 40 B.C. provincial organizations involved in the provision of community social services.

"We work in this sector, and we see first-hand the difference that comprehensive community-based social services make in people's lives, especially during difficult economic times," says Shabna Ali, Executive Director of the B.C. Society of Transition Houses. "These poll results show us that British Columbians get that as well. Any further cuts to social services will put community health even more at risk, now and long into the future."

A number of community social services organizations will present the poll results in presentations to government, including the Select Standing Committee on Finance on tour in B.C. right now. One in three British Columbians will use community social services in their lifetime, but services and access in the province have been eroded through a decade of reduced funding, increased demand and the unintended consequences of policy changes.

Key Findings - B.C. Community Services research

- British Columbians believe the current level of funding for community social services is too low. Almost two in three respondents (65%) stated that the level of funding is too low.
- Only 7% believe the current level of funding is too high
- Three out of four respondents (75%) believe that in tough times, government cuts to these services hurt people now and into the future, where missed opportunities for prevention end up as costly crisis interventions.
- Only 15% believe that in tough times, government should reduce its deficit by doing things like cutting community social services.
- Most respondents believe they would either have a short wait (two-in-five) or a long wait (almost half) for service, if they or a member of their family needed support. More than one in twenty (7%) do not think they would get the service at all.

- 87% agreed with the following statement: *Community social services like mental health services, support for seniors, and drug and alcohol counselling make our communities safer and better places to live. My community will be less safe and orderly without those services.*

- That same percentage (87%) agreed that it's smarter and more economical to tackle social problems early, and that spending on community social services now results in spending less in the future on policing, jails and hospital care.

85% of British Columbia residents consider community social services to be important.

Polling details

- Conducted in British Columbia on Aug. 24-25, 2010, by Angus Reid Public Opinion and NOW Communications on behalf of the Provincial Roundtable
- 804 adults responded

Margin of error: plus or minus 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

...continued on next page

A NEW POLL...(continued...)

Sponsors

An affiliation of up to 40 provincial agencies and umbrella organizations has been meeting over the past 18 months as the Roundtable of Provincial Social Services Organizations. The overarching objective of the group is to enhance the capacity of the social services sector in BC to support individuals, families and communities in tough times through collaborating effectively on common goals.

Representative Members Affiliated with the Roundtable of Provincial Social Services Organizations

B.C. Society of Transition Houses - Representing over 220 agencies that provide service to women, youth and children fleeing violence. Contact: Shabna Ali, 604-669-6943

Federation of Community Social Services of B.C. – Representing 126 multi service agencies. Contact: Jennifer Charlesworth 250-480-7387

United Community Services Co-op – Representing 112 member agencies cooperating to provide business and consulting services to non profit agencies. Contact: Tim Beachy 604-718-8292

Ending Violence Association of BC - Representing 240 programs across BC that respond to domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. Contact: Tracy Porteous 604-633-2506, ext. 11

B.C. Council for Families – Providing parent and family support across the province. Contact: Glenn Hope 604-678-8884

BC Association of Social Workers – Representing 1200 social work professionals. Contact: Linda Korbin T 604-730-9111 Toll free in BC 1-800-665-4747

Board Voice Society of B.C. – Representing 45 boards of directors of social services agencies. Contact: Doug Hayman, 250-480-7387

Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies - Representing 80 immigrant and multiculturalism service agencies around BC. Contact: Timothy Welsh, 604-718-2782

ASPECT – Representing 175 agencies providing community based trainers and employment services. Contact: Norma Strachan 250-382-9675 ext: 225

Vantage Point – Coordinating professional development for non profits. Contact: Colleen Kelly 604-637-8291

Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC – Representing 1250 members and eight neighbourhood Houses. Contact: Mamie Hutt-Temoana, 604-875-9111 Ext.107

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities - A cross-disability organization serving the province of BC. Contact: Jane Dyson, 604-875-0188.

BC Association for Community Living – Representing 72 agencies which enhance the lives of children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Contact: Faith Bodner, Tel. 604 777 9100 | Toll-free. 1 800-618-1119

B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association – A provincial umbrella organization for non-profit housing societies which offer over 50,000 units of long-term affordable non-market housing for British Columbians in need. Contact: Karen Stone, 604-291-2600

Association for Community Education of BC - promotes Community Education and supports the work of nearly 100 Community Schools, within 26 School Districts throughout B.C. Contact: Bill Preston 250-752-8486

For more information on this poll contact: **Doug Hayman**, doug@fcssbc.ca, 250-480-7387, **Shabna Ali**, shabna@bcsth.ca, 604-724-4636, or **Glenn Hope**, glennh@bccf.ca, 604-678-8884 #226

Paying Attention For Prevention

- a project of Roberts Creek Community School funded by Health Canada



A strong body of evidence accumulated over the past decade indicates that attending to the social and emotional learning (SEL) of children is a wise investment in their success in school and in the future as well developed, fully functioning adults. Social and emotional competence builds resiliency in children and resiliency is a key factor in reducing at-risk behaviours. Many of the programs that teach social and emotional skills have been evaluated and found to have positive impacts and research shows that schools are the most effective setting for teaching SEL. One such program is Mindfulness Education.

At Chatelech High School on the Sunshine Coast we are in the second year of a three year pilot project implementing and examining the effectiveness of a series of activities with the potential to increase the social and emotional competence of grade eight students.

The core activity of the project is a thirteen week curriculum of Mindfulness training, other activities include a panel presentation by drug and alcohol experts, Non-Violent Communication skills training, and the development of social marketing materials coordinated by a school based prevention worker. Each year, the intent is to focus on the new grade eight group, while continuing to involve previous grade eight students as they move on to grades nine and ten. Key partners are Health Canada (drug strategy community initiatives fund) School District #46,

Chatelech/Sechelt Community School and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

A question we are often asked by parents and teachers is *"What is mindfulness?"*

Mindful focused awareness can be understood as a state of being aware of and attentive to the present moment. Attention and awareness are consistent features of mindfulness, a focus on current experiences versus "automatic pilot".

In the first year of the project we were able to deliver the Mindfulness lessons to approximately half ($n = 57$) of the grade eight students and the drug and alcohol expert panel to the entire grade eight cohort. All the grade eight students completed an on line resiliency survey specifically designed by our team and Resiliency Inc from Calgary. The data from the survey will be used as a base line measure as the students move into grade nine and ten.

It has been a challenging first year requiring considerable 'resilience' and 'mindfulness' by the project implementation team. Most challenging has been finding a time in the grade eight students schedule to deliver the lessons and activities – we squeezed into any small crack in their timetable. In hindsight, the project team recognized that our expectations for the first year were unrealistic. More time was needed for "gearing up" and getting the school district staff fully prepared and teachers trained on how to deliver the Mindfulness lessons.

A key lesson learned was not to underestimate the complexity of introducing non-standard curriculum into a highly structured school district environment. Considerable focused attention needs to be paid to creating a welcoming environment in the 'system' that the project is being introduced to. *(continued on next page)*

NEW HAPPENINGS—BAMFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The Bamfield Community School Association has had many changes over the last month. We welcome Catherine Thompson as our new Coordinator and Theresa Carnduff as Program Supervisor. We say goodbye to Heather Cooper who has dedicated many years and brought great ideas and talent to this association. With two new staff brainstorming ideas for the new school year there are many plans in the works. Starting off with a bi-weekly Community Night and a weekly Preschool Playgroup, we

are hoping to make good use of the school facilities, increase opportunities and encourage connections between members of the community, while having fun. We have welcomed back community members who coordinate activities and events and plan on continuing the many partnerships BCSA has within the community. At the moment we are busy planning for the Community Fungus Fair 2010 and as October progresses it will bring us Fire Prevention Week and the excitement of Halloween. We are

looking forward to attending the ACE conference in late October and connecting with everyone. Our office is located at 240 Nuthatch Rd. Bamfield, B.C. Canada.

You can contact Catherine or Theresa by phone at 250-728-1220 or by email: Catherine Thompson at cthompson@bamfield.ca and Theresa Carnduff at tcarnduff@bamfield.ca.

Paying attention...*continued from page 8*

Project success and sustainability requires two parallel paths: one path of implementing the activities and one path of developing a community of practice and knowledge exchange.

Our second year has started well; key personnel in the district are familiar with the project and we have our 'champions' in place in the high school. We continue to focus on small steps forward and having faith that the project outcomes will bear some resemblance to those described in the funding application three years ago.

For more information contact: Stacia Leech, Project Manager and Coordinator of the Roberts Creek Community School. 604.885.3481 or rccs@dccnet.com

Resources:

www.casel.org – Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning

www.thehawnfoundation.org – Funding and support for the development of the mindfulness curriculum.

www.mindfuleducation.org – Association of mindfulness in education

If you have a few minutes right now you might want to experience some Mindful Breathing:

Sit comfortably with your feet planted firmly on the floor, your hands loosely in your lap.

If you are comfortable, close your eyes.

Begin with a slow, deep breath, bringing all your attention and awareness to the sensation of your breath.

Continue to breathe at a natural pace, maintaining your focus on your breath.

If your mind wanders, simply take notice that it has wandered and bring your attention back to your breath.

Continue for a few minutes.

When you are ready, slowly bring your attention back to the room.

School Community Connections—Funding Opportunities

The *School Community Connections* (SCC) program was launched in 2005 through a one-time \$10 million grant from the provincial Ministry of Education. The program is jointly managed by the Union of BC Municipalities and the BC School Trustees Association and is intended to promote sustainable and innovative collaboration between boards of education and local governments.

In 2005, the first SCC program was launched with an emphasis on encouraging greater community use of school facilities. The three step program provided funding to i) connect boards of education and local governments to explore common needs; ii) embark on a planning process to determine how those common needs might be addressed; and iii) provide minor capital funding to implement the project as planned. The 2005 program is nearing completion with 55 boards of education having taken advantage of at least one phase of the program.

In 2008, SCC was continued with the *Strengthening the Connection* program. This program offered boards of education and/or local governments the opportunity to apply for up to 3 grants of \$8,000 per district in order to support partnerships, address local issues and provide direct benefit to students, their families and the community.

In early 2010, the *Supporting Neighbourhood Learning Centres* program was launched through SCC.



2010 Supporting Neighbourhood Learning Centres Program (Round 2)

Boards of Education and local governments are now invited to apply under **Round 2** of the 2010 program. Grants of up to \$25,000 per school district are available. Depending on the number of applications that are submitted, an additional \$5,000 per school district may be available.

Live Link to Application Form: <http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/Documents/scc-2010-r2-application-form.doc> - **Due November 19, 2010**

For more information visit the website address below:

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/healthy-communities/school-community-connections-2008.html>



Comments, suggestions, feedback?
Or, if you would like to submit an article for the
ACEbc newsletter, please contact:

Taryn Briscoe
Newsletter Coordinator
taryn.briscoe@sd41.bc.ca
604-664-8823

The ACEbc Newsletter will be published three
times a year (Spring, Fall, Winter).

WE ARE ON THE WEB

Don't forget to visit our ACEbc
website at www.acebc.org for
information and updates.



Celebrate Raise-A-Reader with Teddy Bear Bedtime Story Times

The invitation ... “Put on your PJ’s, bring your favorite stuffy and head to one of two local elementary school libraries to celebrate **Raise-A-Reader** week with Teddy Bear Bedtime Story Time. Surprise guest readers at each school will read one or two of their favorite children’s stories. You can also sign up for a library card for the Regional Library. This program is for families with children from birth to grade three. Each family will take home a book and there will be door prizes. Join us at Alberni Elementary on September 29th or Wood Elementary on September 30th from 6:30 – 7:30.”

The result ... 130 people attended the two events that were as different as they were the same. The surprise guest readers – an Early Childhood Educator and a retired teacher – wowed their audiences with stories, songs and, in one case, poetry.

Each of the events ended with 4 prize draws – a book, two turkey certificates and a Bedtime Basket including a book bag from the regional library, a stuffed orca whale, a 365 Bedtime Stories book, another bedtime story book, some popcorn and hot chocolate. As well, every family who attended got a copy of “Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom” and every child got a toothbrush – complements of the Tooth Fairy.



Even the parents had smiles as special guest Katrina Connell reads “Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Awake” at Alberni Elementary School’s Bedtime Story event.

September 29th, Alberni Elementary Library ... Katrina Connell, an Early Childhood Educator, started the evening in conversation with her stuffed wolf, who seemed to be surprised at the number of children waiting to hear the story. After a quick rendition of “Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes” – to get the wiggles out - Katrina read two of her favorite stories – “Don’t Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late” by Mo Willems and “Katy and the Very Big Snow” by Virginia Burton.

September 30th, Wood Elementary Library ...

Winston Joseph, a retired teacher who is known in our community

as “Mr. Positive Port”, started his session with “Let’s talk about Shakespeare.” Winston read “Thankful” and “Read to Me Wolf”. A teacher who attended this session said, “What a wonderful choice for a reader. He had such a gentle way with the children. He spoke to my heart.”



Special guest Winston Joseph engages parents and children at the Wood Elementary School Bedtime Story event.

The partners ... Teddy Bear Bedtime Story Time was the result of a wonderful partnership between School District 70 (Alberni), the Vancouver Island Regional Library and the Community School. Stacey Manson, the District Principal for Early Learning and District Capacity, Colleen Nelson, Child and Youth Librarian at the Regional Library and our Community School Coordinator worked together to create an evening of literacy and fun for many families. Our Teddy Bear Bedtime Story Times proved what the Community School has always known – **Together We’re Better.**

For more information, contact Cathy Cross, Coordinator, Alberni Community School Society at ccross@sd70.bc.ca.

Building the Leader Within at Stoney Creek Community School

Two years ago, the staff at Stoney Creek Community School sat down to look at the growing needs of their students. Achievement was not where teachers wanted it to be, and there was a feeling that students were not coming to school properly prepared to learn. While at school, students' behaviour and social issues dominated learning time, and there were many referrals to the office. Staff spent a great deal of time looking at different interventions that would address this growing concern.

Service and Leadership had always been a staple at Stoney Creek, so the staff decided to build on existing structures. The one thing that was missing was a common language and a framework from which to work from. The book, The Leader in Me by Stephen Covey became the inspiration for the Leadership Goal that was created by the staff. The book examines several schools in North America that used the concept of leadership to unite the school community and foster a sense of belonging and ownership for the students. The schools also used, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Sean Covey, as the common language to promote leadership, social awareness and social responsibility. The staff members at Stoney Creek are fully committed to this initiative and over three-quarters of them have dedicated their Professional Growth time towards leadership.

Throughout the school over the past two years you can see leadership developing. Activities such as: a leadership themed school-wide ceramic tile project, classroom art and writing activities, leadership posters and quotes, our grade 7 "Meet the Leaders" project, to our 7 Habits Songbook, and grade 5-7 leadership councils. These are just a few indicators of the importance of this initiative at school. At each monthly assembly, students are recognized for their leadership contributions and for using the 7 Habits at school. To date, over 210 students have been

*"AS WE CELEBRATE
THE WONDERFUL
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recognized for their leadership efforts. Students from Kindergarten to grade 7 can verbalize why they are leaders and identify each of the 7 Habits.

As we celebrate the wonderful growth that has taken place in the last two years, we continue to look forward to where we aspire to be. Staff are constantly engaged in professional development in the area of leadership and social-emotional learning. We have linked with UBC on a three year research study that will track school climate and bullying. We have begun to use student planners that focus on the 7 Habits. Finally, we have planned several parent information evenings to build the connection with our parent community. It is an exciting time at Stoney Creek Community School, a place where we are all leaders.



Recommended Books:

The Leader in Me by Stephen Covey

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Sean Covey

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Workbook by Sean Covey

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids by Sean Covey

Written by Peter Dubinsky, Principal, Stoney Creek Community School.

For more information, contact Peter Dubinsky, Principal, Stoney Creek Community School at peter.dubinsky@sd41.bc.ca or Lawrence Ryan, Community School Coordinator at Lawrence.ryan@sd41.bc.ca.

Budget Input to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

(Details of the committee process are at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations)

Don Reimer and Bill Preston prepared a submission to this multi-party committee, which closed its call for input on October 15. This is an outline of the ACEbc paper — the complete brief can be found on the ACEbc web site.

The provincial government has taken some important steps towards building a sustainable economy for the province, but there are serious underlying issues that ACEbc recommends the province address. This submission makes four broad recommendations to the committee, and concludes with one strategy for implementation at the community level.

Recommendations:

- Invest financial resources on long term efforts to implement prevention strategies.
- Coordinate funding streams from various ministries to reduce the “silo effect.”
- Develop strategies in cooperation with the private sector, non-profits, and research institutions to systematically build healthy, resilient learning communities across BC.
- Develop strategies to communicate to the public the importance of making significant changes across the province that more clearly reflect both research findings and the experience of those working at the community level.

Coherent strategies must be developed at the community level. These strategies can be informed by ACEbc’s work with community education and the experience of community schools across BC.

The provincial government has begun to plan for community space in each school across BC under the umbrella of Neighbourhood Learning Centres. Access to such facilities could be an important step in a comprehensive strategy to build strong communities. Skilled people at the community level will be even more critical than facilities if we are to develop and implement effective strategies and programs to contend with the future that researchers are forecasting.

Conclusion

Members of ACEbc are working on the ground in 26 school districts, in approximately 100 community schools across British Columbia. The principles of community education and development that underpin our work reflect many of the conclusions of the researchers quoted in this budget submission. Our web site has additional resources that reinforce the economic benefits of the work ACEbc people do. For example, Investing in Community Schools 2010 sets out four key reasons why public funding of community schools is a good investment: 1) they focus on prevention, 2) they leverage public funds, 3) they coordinate and integrate many community services, and 4) they provide programs and services year round to the entire community.

In recent years, community school funding has not been consistent throughout the province, and many small communities – rural and urban – have lost some or all of their former support. Revitalizing the network of community schools - with appropriate expectations that match 21st century research findings – would ensure this strong effective base remains in place.

COMMUNITY SAFETY BECOMES A LIFESTYLE CHOICE FOR NANAIMO COMMUNITY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

STUDENTS PUT OUT FIRES AND CLEAN UP GULF OIL

At NDSS Community School in Nanaimo, students practiced the skills for "Make Personal Safety Your LIFESTYLE" designed for students, their families and friends. At home, school, and in their communities students are now keepers of the action knowledge skills on how to assess and safely suppress fires. The Harewood community suffered 3 tragic house fires in recent months, the latest just weeks ago in September 2010. In July the SD68 Safety Officer, in partnership with the community school, offered 17 students free training using the high tech laser-based Bull:X Fire Training System seen in action below right. The innovative system uses laser equipped fire extinguishers interacting with an LCD screen for a realistic feel minus the toxic smoke and heat, allowing for inexpensive, efficient indoor training.



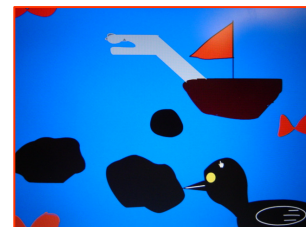
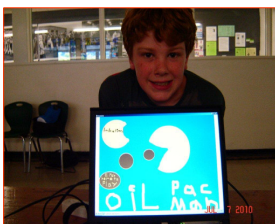
Byte Camp's "Design Your Own Video Game" gave students 11-14 yrs a way to move beyond being passive consumers of ready-made often uber-violent video games. Students designed their own alternative video games. Below are the the results that students designed completely from



scratch. Several expressed deep concern about the Gulf of Mexico Oil Gusher Disaster and its then-pending cleanup. Screenshots below are from Oil Spill and Oil Pacman both games challenged players to munch up tarballs and save wildlife in the Gulf of Mexico!



For more information contact Jim MacGregor, Community School Coordinator at Nanaimo District Secondary School at jmacgregor@sd68.bc.ca.



TAKING THE LEAD: YOUTH'S VOICES AND VISIONS FOR CHANGE

The first of the many phases of *YouthMADE (Media Arts Diversity Education and Empowerment)*, a media arts production and outreach program that inspires those who have been effected by racism and discrimination to become creative agents in overcoming it began in April 2009. In the spring of that year nineteen students from Vancouver and Port Alberni gathered on a small island off of the west coast of Vancouver to make a series of videos that would contribute to making BC school communities more compassionate, inclusive, creatively engaged and socially just.

Working in small production teams with the guidance of accomplished media arts mentors, the students created 6 videos in 10 days—each bursting with unique visions, views and ideas that could launch a thousand questions and classroom discussions. We've had an opportunity to witness the transformative power of digital storytelling and the healing ripple effect it can inspire beyond the classroom as well. Last summer AMES hosted a community dialogue in Port Alberni that featured some of the YouthMADE videos. People from all walks of the community (many of whom had been political adversaries) gathered. They were invited to attend the dialogue, but ultimately they were 'called' to rise above their own prejudices and listen with compassion to what the students had to say. Above and beyond the miracle of getting these people in the same room, the most concrete outcome came through the superintendent's reaction. Cam Pinkerton was so moved by the candid and clear voices and of the young people on screen that he made a commitment--then and there--to make anti-racism education essential from K-12 in school district 70!

And the legacy of the videos is about to continue in another form. A series of mini-docs--which feature the videos and interviews with the students who made them--are currently being incorporated into a *YouthMADE*



Resource package that includes custom-made lesson plans, background material, links and facilitation tips.

And that's not all. The final phase of



this project will see 13 Vancouver-based youth coming to Galiano Island in October to collaboratively develop a series of workshops that incorporate the *YouthMADE* packages and that they will be delivering (free of charge) to students, educators and administrators in the Vancouver area this fall. As Anglea Brown, project collaborator and former VSB Anti-Racism and Discrimination consultant notes: "The

YouthMADE resource guides and workshops embody three core values: Compassion, Critical Analysis and Creativity. The lessons in the guide are designed to enable educators to use a facilitative, hands-on, hearts-based and arts-based approach to engage students in courageous conversations around complex and dense forms of discrimination. The resource and the workshops will assist both educators and students to reflect on their own subconscious biases and assumptions and how they may be implicated in their work and daily actions."

One thing is clear. The creativity and courage that the students have modelled has the capacity to inspire the same in others and 'bring home' the need to create and hold spaces in which this work and the issues it evokes can be truly HEARD and SEEN.

For more info about the YouthMADE packages (available for educators in January 2011) or the YouthMADE workshops (booking for which can start in early November) please contact: <http://www.accesstomedia.org>.

YouthMADE is an initiative of the Access to Media Education Society (AMES), a registered charity dedicated to using the media arts to support youth-led community development, encourage peer-based expression and education and promote social change. It has been made possible through the generous support of the Provincial Government, The Vancouver Foundation, The Youth Philanthropy Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

For more information contact Deblekha Guin, Executive Director of AMES at ames@gulfislands.com.


ACE·bc

The Association for Community Education in British
Columbia (ACEbc) www.acebc.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2010/11

(Memberships are effective from September 1 to August 31)

- ☐ **Non-Professional Individual Membership \$25** (Community Members, Parents)
- ☐ **Professional Individual Membership \$35** (Coordinators, Teachers, Administrators)

Name: _____

Phone _____

Address: _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

E-mail _____

School: _____

School District Name and Number: _____

- ☐ **Organization/Group Membership \$60** (Societies, Associations, Advisory Councils, other groups)

Organization Name _____

Phone _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email _____

School Affiliation: _____

Membership allows each Organization to name 5 volunteer members to receive newsletters. In addition, it entitles any of these 5 members to attend the Community Education Conference at a discounted rate. All elected or appointed members of your council, association or society qualify as group members.

Name _____

Role _____

Name _____

Role _____

Name _____

Role _____

Name _____

Role _____

Name _____

Role _____

Please note: Coordinators and other related staff are to apply for a Professional Membership and are not to be included in an Organization or Group Membership.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "ACEbc"

Please mail with application and payment to:

ACEbc Membership c/o Doreen George, 1386 Wynbrook Place, Burnaby, BC V5A 3Y6

LOCHDALE CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

This fall, staff, students and community members from Lochdale Community School will be creating a quilt entitled “Lochdale Celebrates Diversity”. Each child will paint their portrait on a piece of fabric, paying special attention to what makes them unique and special. The children in Kindergarten and the Strong Start program will colour their handprint on a fabric square which will make the quilt’s border. We are very fortunate to have received grants from the BC Teacher’s Federation, the City of Burnaby, Burnaby North Community Association, and the Lochdale Community School Association which have enabled us to hire two professional artists and purchase the supplies. The artists, Anna



Talbot and Shelley Twist, will work with the students on drawing and painting techniques. The children will have three different sessions with the artists throughout October and into the early part of November. Several ladies from the community will then assemble and sew the quilt. Our goal is to have our quilt finished and displayed in the gym by the end of the year.

Our community is ever growing and changing, with more cultural

diversity evident every year. This project will enable students to celebrate and value their uniqueness and that of others. The quilt itself is also a metaphor for a diversified population; together we create a whole and within that whole, we are all unique. It is also a chance for some of our community members to contribute to an expression of our school culture by assembling the quilt, drawing the inclusive circle of community even wider.

For more information, contact Stephanie Archer, Lochdale Community School Coordinator at 604-664-8225 or stephanie.archer@sd41.bc.ca.

Growing Together—New partnerships at SCSA



In 2010, Shoreline Community School Association (SCSA) was very fortunate to form a new partnership with a long-standing community organization, The View Royal Garden Club. Through this partnership, some wonderful opportunities have been made available to the Middle School including access to some great gardening information and expertise. The Garden Club cleared the very overgrown garden in the front of the school to prepare it for the special needs students to plant vegetables and flowers. The Garden Club has also been instrumental in the development of 5 new beds that Shoreline School tends at the community gardens at Craigflower Historic sites. As well, they participate on the Community School Board.

In cooperation with SCSA, the View Royal Garden Club hosts three shows each year. It is wonderful to see the positive relationship that is developing between the Middle School students and the mostly senior membership of the Garden Club. The Shoreline Leadership students’ team has taken responsibility for setting up tables and organizing the layout for the annual shows. They also assist with set up for the Garden Club’s monthly meetings. Many new members have joined The Garden Club since their move to Shoreline. The Executive attribute this growth to the marketing they get through SCSA and they are also hopeful, that through this partnership, some of the young aspiring gardeners from Shoreline Middle school will join soon!



For more information contact Diane Dennis at ddennis@sd61.bc.ca.

ACEbc Gallery...



...our communities in action!