



ACE NOTES

WINTER/SPRING
2013



THE KIDSAFE PROJECT: KEEPING DOORS OPEN FOR KIDS

*When school doors closed for
Spring Break, KidSafe opened.*

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While Spring Break is typically thought of as a carefree time for family fun and travel, vulnerable children living in inner-city Vancouver can often have much different experiences. Spring Break can be a time of loneliness, boredom and hunger, with socio-economic barriers drastically limiting the childcare options available to parents and caregivers. This leaves many children wondering what they will do, where they will go, and if they will have enough to eat.

To ensure that vulnerable children had equal opportunity to feel happy, healthy and supported this Spring Break, school doors were kept open each weekday of the two-week break, to 300 referred children who attend six inner-city Vancouver elementary schools: Queen Alexandra, MacDonald, Florence Nightingale, Admiral Seymour, Mount Pleasant and Grandview/uuqinak'uuh. 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of this vital program, delivered by The KidSafe Project Society, an east Vancouver based non-profit organization that provides nurturing safe havens to vulnerable inner-city children when schools are traditionally closed.

The organization was founded in 1993 by inner-city school principals, concerned citizens and The Vancouver Sun newspaper in response to a brutal tragedy that left an eight year old child brutally beaten, then *(continued on page 4)*

A Message from the ACEbc Board

Greetings from the ACEbc Board!

Stacia Leech, Coordinator from Roberts Creek Community School on the Sunshine Coast has recently completed a province wide survey and been successful in collecting valuable information from our Community School Coordinators. We had an excellent response, receiving information from 50 Coordinators and providing all of us with an up-to-date and comprehensive overview of what is happening in our schools and communities. Come to the AGM to hear the first release of the information.

I hope you've had a chance to see 2 new videos on the ACEbc website. Videographer and Burnaby parent, Vicky Ma, has produced the videos. One was produced from interviews at the ACEbc October conference and the second an 8 minute Burnaby School District Community School video. ACEbc has contracted Vicky to complete 2 more videos for our advocacy and promotional work, one that is 5 minutes long and a second that will be 2 minutes. She will be visiting 6 communities to collect footage over the spring months. The two videos will assist in promoting and educating others about the value and positive impacts of Community Schools.

With the provincial election less than 2 months away, the Board is proud that its Advocacy Committee has connected with each of the four BC parties and shared with them why Community Schools should be a vital component of their educational platforms.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the AGM on April 5 at Schou Education Centre in Burnaby. See the flyer on the next page for details.

Please consider becoming a Board member in 2013 – be a member at large or a district representative. We are looking to fill two table officers – our Vice President and our Membership Chair.

In closing I'd like to share an abridged version of a quote from a wall of a yoga studio.

All the best,

Janey Talbot

Commitment - until one is committed; there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, ineffectiveness... The moment one definitely commits oneself, the universe moves too, all sorts of things occur to help you that would otherwise never have occurred. A whole stream of events and issues from the decision rise in your favour that no one dreamt would have come your way."

WN Murray - Scottish Himalayan expedition 1951

Please Join Us



ACEbc AGM 2013 – Fri. April 5 Notice of Annual General Meeting and Professional Development opportunity

At our AGM there will be elections for board members for the upcoming year, 2013 - 14. Positions are listed on the ACEbc website, www.acebc.org (follow the links under "Contact"). ***New board members are welcome!***

Please reply to Robin Stewart [rstewart@sd40.bc.ca] indicating your interest in running for an officer's position or a director at large. Districts are also encouraged to participate by sending a district representative to the board by agreement of coordinators in your district. The board meets approximately 5 times each year.

Location: Schou Education Centre, 4041 Canada Way Burnaby, V5G 1G6 (0.6 Km East of Boundary)

10:00: **Registration**

10:30: **Guest presentation, Social Emotional Learning, by Peter Dubinsky, Director of Instruction, Burnaby**

12:00: **Lunch and networking opportunity**

12:45 - 1:15 **AGM**

Short meeting of new board to follow.

Building Community through Social-Emotional Learning

Peter Dubinsky has been an educator for the past 17 years and holds a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Oregon. He has been a Community School Principal in the Burnaby School District for the past 5 years. He was recently promoted to Director of Instruction. One of his responsibilities involves the supervision of the 7 Elementary Community Schools, the pilot Secondary school model and the multi school model, (one Neighbourhood Learning Coordinator working out of three schools), in the district.

As Principal in his last two schools, he has developed a system to discover the strengths and needs of the school community. He has also discovered the positive impact that Social Emotional Learning has had in building community.



Peter's keynote address will be an exciting and interactive session where participants will be able to 1) hear and learn from Peter's experiences in community schools to increase student achievement and sense of belonging and 2) discuss in small groups how this might impact your community. Topics to be covered are:

- ♦ The use of the Spiral of Inquiry process to determine need. How do you know what you are looking for? Where to start?
- ♦ The importance and impact of SEL on community and community building
- ♦ Implementation of The 7 Habits of Happy Kids and Leadership as a model

THE KIDSAFE PROJECT (continued from front page)

abandoned in an east side apartment. The community was outraged by the tragedy, then galvanized into action; they were united in their vision to provide vulnerable children with a safe place to go when school is out.

“For the vulnerable inner-city children that KidSafe serves, school is often the safest place in their lives,” says KidSafe’s Executive Director, Gerhard Maynard.

“It’s where they learn, make friends, discover role-models, and find help if crisis arises. It is also the place many children rely on to provide them with their daily meals. When school closes for break, KidSafe ensures that these essential services continue.”



Each day at KidSafe, children received their full day’s nutrition, supervision in a familiar and accessible place of safety, emotional support from child care specialists, and developmental programming that is often prohibitively expensive and inaccessible to them. Spring Break activity favourites included mad science workshops, a cooking challenge, a musical theatre program delivered in partnership with the Sarah McLachlan School of Music, and field-trips to the Vancouver Aquarium and Britannia Mines. Thanks to the support of a community of donors, KidSafe was able to provide an amazing 21,000 total hours of programming, 1,200 total field-trip admissions and 6,000 nutritious meals at absolutely no cost to children and families.

Next on the schedule for KidSafe is the organization’s Summer Break Program, which is its largest and most popular program. KidSafe will welcome 300 children into the eight-week program, with activities spanning five program pillars including Arts & Culture, Science & Nature, Health & Wellness, Literacy and Leadership. Summer Break also includes a highly anticipated visit to Splashdown Park, where all 300 children join together for an afternoon of fun.

“Field-trips are an extremely important part of KidSafe’s programs,” says Maynard. “They spark children’s interest in new subject areas, and allow them to make lasting positive memories with their friends and KidSafe’s caring adult staff.”

“I’ll never forget the reaction of a boy named ‘Thomas’ when he found out he would have the opportunity to visit Splashdown Park over Summer Break. He was beyond excited, and started crying happy tears. Thomas could not believe he was going to be able to participate without paying anything. He told us how he had always wanted to

THE KIDSAFE PROJECT (continued)

go, but limited means and no access to a car meant that he had never been able to visit.”

“Seeing Thomas at the park that day was a true testament to the value of KidSafe. Children are given a break from the adult responsibilities and issues they often face on a daily basis, and just enjoy the carefree freedom of being children. That day at Splashdown Park, Thomas could think of nothing else but enjoying a day as a little boy at the waterslides with his friends.”

To learn more about The KidSafe Project Society, and how you can support the Summer Break Program as a volunteer or donor, visit www.kidsafe.ca, or phone 604-713-4467. You can also follow KidSafe on Twitter at @kidsafeproject.

Submitted by Danielle Rana (danielle@kidsafe.ca).

follow us on
twitter



ACEbc is now live on twitter!

Join us at @acebctweets to receive links, information, and resources.

Are you new to Twitter? Go to <http://www.twitter.com> to sign up, or follow this link to watch a youtube video on how to sign up. **It's easy!** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkWL985S95E>

Once you have signed up, be sure to **search for @acebctweets** to follow us so we can follow you back!

TWITTER TIPS

- A twitter username is preceded by the “@” sign (ie: @acebctweets)
- Your twitter username can be anything you want – you can use your first name, your first and last name, or any name you choose! (but make sure it is easy to remember by you and your followers)
 - Each “tweet” is limited to 140 characters so keep it short and simple
 - A hashtag (#) is used in tweets to mark keywords or a topic, for example a topic may be #communityschools
 - You can search “keywords” or topics by using the hashtag (#) as well
- A “re-tweet” is simply forwarding on a tweet that you have received or would like to share
 - Once you join twitter, tweet, tweet, tweet, to practice!

Welcome to the twitter-verse!

ACEbc ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The latest resource from ACEbc is a document titled **Revitalizing Community Education for the 21st Century**. We have presented this document to members of all political parties and we know it will stimulate discussion during the upcoming election campaign.

We are also working on several other resources to support and expand community schools in BC, including:

- Elements of a Strategic plan
- A Community Schools Logic Model
- A short video of Community Schools in BC to be created by Vicky Ma, who prepared a video on Burnaby's Community Schools last year – find it on the ACEbc web site www.acebc.org

Be an advocate for

Community Schools and Community Education

Share your experience, along with ACEbc's resources and expertise, with your candidates in the upcoming provincial election.

Some key resources you might use from our website:

VIDEOS:

- SD41 Burnaby Community Schools (8 min., or short version is 2 min.)
- Community Schools and Neighbourhood Learning Centres in BC. (Video 6:40 min.)
- Douglas Park Community School - Langley (Video, 13 min.)

PAPERS:

- ◇ ACE21 Three Minute Elevator Talk
- ◇ Principals and Community Schools
- ◇ Superintendents and Community Schools
- ◇ ACEbc 2012 Now is the Time - Advocating for Community Education and Community Schools
- ◇ Investing in Community Schools 2010 - an Economic Perspective
- ◇ New for 2013: **Revitalizing Community Education for the 21st Century**

Find these resources and more at www.acebc.org

The Power of Social Media to Connect: NFB Education visits Byrne Creek Secondary School

There is much discussion about the negative aspects of social media, for a host of reasons. I will not argue against these points, because many of them are valid. However, I have found that there are also very positive reasons to engage with and utilize social media platforms—such as social media’s power to connect and build community.



Here’s an example: A few months ago, I was reading through my Tweets and saw a message from the NFB, saying something like, “Excited to start our animation workshops in Toronto and Montreal this morning.” I quickly responded, “We’d love animation workshops in Vancouver too, please!”

And guess what? The NFB replied, tracked us down and sent a crack team—Ashley and Claudia from the NFB Education Toronto offices—to lead a Stop-Motion Animation Workshop at Byrne Creek on Valentine’s Day. How lucky are we?

Luckily one of our fabulous art teachers at Byrne agreed to participate! A few exemplary NFB stop-motion works, such as Andrea Dorfman’s *Flawed*, were shown in her art class. In teams, students then worked with Claudia and Ashley to storyboard their own films and assign production roles among the group members. It wasn’t long before the students got down to the best part: inventing and building their clay animation characters and animating their creations. Our students used PixStop, the free iPad 2 app developed by the NFB, and within a very fun hour and a half, they’d created stop-motion animation pieces of their very own. Here they are below, ready to be enjoyed by all.

Our students are more able to flourish, find their creative spark, and discover the excitement of learning with partners like the NFB sharing their resources and expertise with us. Thank you to the NFB, and to social media!

To take part in your own workshop session and other NFB Education opportunities, join the NFB Education mailing list, and follow the NFB on Twitter to find out when we’ll be near your school!

Submitted by Iha Farquhar, Community School Coordinator in Burnaby (iha.farquhar@sd41.bc.ca). Follow the Byrne Creek Community School blog at <http://thecommunityroom.wordpress.com>.



Click the link below to see a YouTube video of the students’ creations.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrKr0e9ivc4&feature=player_embedded

HAVE YOUR RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?



The dollars generated from membership fees and insurance policies assist your elected Board to carry out the tasks of the Association. During the past year,

ACEbc has continued to advocate for the support and growth of community schools in the province, and it would be wonderful if all coordinators and community education organizations became members.

For more information and our membership application form, please visit our website at: <http://acebc.org/membership.html>.

TRIVIA TIME

DO YOU ENJOY READING OUR NEWSLETTER?

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

Answer these 5 short trivia questions and enter your name to win a \$25 Chapters gift card (for in-store or online purchases!)

Answers can be found within this newsletter and on the website.

1. Name 1 resource the ACEbc Advocacy Committee is currently working on.
2. How many years was Peter Dubinsky a Community School Principal?
3. How many hours of programming has The KidSafe Project been able to provide at no cost?
4. What is the vision statement of ACEbc?
5. On the ACEbc Directory, who is listed as the Community School Coordinator in SD43 (Coquitlam) at Miller Park Community School & Seaview Community School?

Please send all entries to:

Email: ACEbc2010@gmail.com OR **fax** 604-664-8254 attention Taryn Briscoe OR by **mail** c/o Stoney Creek Community School, 2740 Beaverbrook Crescent, Burnaby, BC V3J 7B6.

All entries must be postmarked or received by Friday, April 12, 2013, 11:59 PST. **Please be sure to include your contact information!**

WE ARE ON THE WEB

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



NEW

NEW on our website:

"Revitalizing Community Education for the 21st Century"

(8 pages, PDF)

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

~Dr. Seuss

Comments, suggestions, feedback?

Or, if you would like to submit an article for our ACEbc newsletter, please contact:



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