

Trinity Review

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 9, May 2011



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Focus on Success Update

As Trinity's participation in the Focus on Success programs is wrapping up for the year it is time to thank all the wonderful teachers and child and youth workers we have had the privilege to work with. They embody everything that is good about the Student Success program, and have done a remarkable job at removing the stigma often attached to being designated a high risk or special needs student. At the heart of their success lies their ability to help each student move from a position of relative weakness in themselves to relative strength.

Schools Trinity Visited This Month

Sir Oliver Mowat CI

Central Commerce CI

North Albion CI

Lester B. Pearson CI

Earl Haig SS

Marc Garneau CI

Norseman JMS

York Humber HS

Runnymede CI

Malvern CI

Birchmount Park CI

R H King Academy

St. Stephens – Attendance & Support

Pharmacy – Long Term Support

What are Schools for

Continued from Trinity Review – April 2011

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The goals of social-emotional development are actually very straightforward. First, our social/emotional development puts us into a position to make connections with other human beings – connections with others that inspire us and draw us out.

The second goal is to become a learner first and foremost in life – as compared to being an evaluator, judge, statistician, moralist or any other ‘position’ that protects one from the sheer arbitrariness of life and it’s sometimes surprising inner logic.

The third goal of social/emotional development is engagement – life has to be lived and embodied - and the only science involved in social/emotional development is the science of trial and error - and the only way to ‘teach’ it is to share personal experience and presence.

And for those goals to be achieved no special training is involved nor needed – no special place or time is required – no special person or persons needed to deliver the outcomes.

We are the outcomes - all the amazing ways we put our lives together – and the communities we make as we do that.

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Every person needs three things to be able to thrive in society.

First, they need some form of ‘languaging’. I prefer words but images and sounds work too. I prefer words because words are not mere descriptors but actually frame and create reality and our understanding of it.

Second, every person needs some form of meaning. We are constantly making mental ‘maps’ out of sensation and experience and the more depth and consciousness these ‘maps’ can have the more human we become.

Third, everyone must be able to see and realize themselves in action. A person who cannot do this cannot reflect and consequently will be at the mercy of external influences and inner needs.

Languaging, meaning, and action/reflection are the primary goals of teaching no matter what ‘subject’.

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Some may say that the skills development and technical side of education have as much right to be called primary education goals, but that is as shortsighted as saying the humanities and arts are primary goals. Accumulating knowledge is not the point nor the answer to what schools are for nor the point of education.

We all must now have the social/emotional competence to take part in the challenges facing our societies and natural world. Engineers, doctors, scientists, artists, business people, lawyers, academics, salespersons, poets and plumbers will be called upon to peace-make, to participate in neighbourhood development, to mediate, to run in political races, or advocate for clean air or water – in short there is no more time for professionals and skilled workers





School Climate Play

This month Trinity worked with students from three SE5 schools (Birchmount Park CI, Malvern CI and R.H. King Academy) to put on a play that dealt with the transition to high school. This play was titled by the students "High School: Your Unofficial Guide" and was performed to packed audiences of Grade 8 students from feeder schools on May 17, 18 & 19th at Birchmount Park.

On the first day of performances, May 17th, there was a launch & luncheon put on by Alice Walters and her Arts Management students. Attendees included Superintendent Mary Kerr, principals from SE5 family of schools, and trustee Elizabeth Moyer.

The School Climate Play "High School, Your Unofficial Guide" was a great success at exposing grade 8 students to an "unofficial guide" about the opportunities and challenges to making the transition to high school.



What are Schools for Continued...

with limited social/emotional competency and meager personal leadership skills. There is no more time for poisoning ourselves in toxic bureaucracies or professional associations as well as oil spills in our oceans.



There is no one to delegate to, no mandarin class or mastermind think tanks to solve the greater problems our societies face.

We are the problem as well as the answer.



School communities are the first experience of actual community – community not filtered by family – for a young person. By

their teen years youth are radically creative, in an intense hunt for relationship and meaning, and working overtime to build the basis of their first adulthood. And this makes the period of time spent in the international community of a school about so much more than academics. It is about a growth to freedom, of opening to others, of discovering one's vocation, of making community, in short the adventure of the rest of our lives.



Norseman JMS Grade 8 Peer Leadership Definitions

"I have learned that leadership is more than just telling people what to do. It's getting people to trust you and feel comfortable around you. You have to incorporate fun into activities to keep people interested. You can't just lead – you need to be a role model, be trustworthy, fun, calm, polite and kind." - **Caylen W**

"I learned that leadership is organizing the natural skills of the people. People all have skills within, organizing it is what leaders must do. Leaders must also take time to listen to the ideas of the others and combine them into something great." - **Josh L**

"A leader is respectful, wise, good hearted, knowledgeable, and persuasive, can give good orders, help others, is good listener, and doesn't abuse their power. They are a peace maker, and a good role model." – **Sarah H**

"Leadership is taking time, letting people finish, and being polite. Honesty, kindness, and trusting are important, as well as being truthful, and happy." – **Cole H**



Long Term Support Program Wrap Up

We are currently wrapping up the Moving Forward program – a social/emotional development program for long term support students with sessions at St. Stephens and Pharmacy sites.

Special thanks for all the help and guidance from Karen Wolff, Domenic Calvo and Debbie Feldman. It was a great year and we are looking forward to getting the program into all the long term support sites in September!

Program Updates & Up Coming Events

Employment Opportunities at Trinity

Calling all high school students! Trinity has received funding from Canada Summer Jobs 2011 to hire 6 summer students. These students will come together as a team to explore being Canadian and challenges in exploring integration. As part of our multicultural project we have selected 3 secondary schools in high density to hire from, reflecting ethno-specific groups. Contact us via email with a copy of your resume and a cover letter if you attend Marc Garneau CI, Lester B. Pearson CI or North Albion CI and are interested in this summer position.

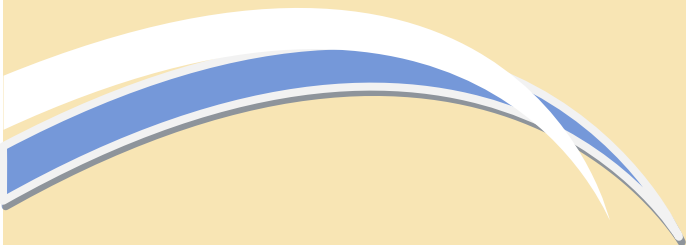
Anti-Hazing Campaign

The anti-hazing project that Trinity is participating in to bring an end to the hazing practices at Malvern CI is under way! Gr. 9 & 10 students will be going into Gr.8 classes in June to talk to teachers and parents to align their strategy on what the campaign in September 2011 is going to look like.

Trinity Travels

In June Trinity will travel to Bruce Grey County to visit Sacred Heart Catholic HS and St. Mary's Catholic HS to wrap up the Creating Communities We Want Program and to hand out certificates.

***All photos in this newsletter were taken from the School Climate Play – “High School: Your Unofficial Guide”.**



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