



Peaceful Schools International

WE CHOOSE PEACE

LBPSB PEACE SYMPOSIUM

MAY 15, 2009

LAKESIDE ACADEMY

8:30am – 3:30pm

- 8:30 am Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 am **Plenary Session**
Keynote Speaker – Hetty van Gorp, co-founder of PSI
For over a decade, Hetty has dedicated herself to promoting the need to teach peace in schools. Hetty, a Nova Scotia educator, lost her eldest son Ben in a bullying incident at school – a place where we expect our children to be safe.
Since 2002, Hetty has been the catalyst for the work of PSI in LBPSB. She has joined us to lead workshops and celebrate our flags of membership. It is an honour to have her with us once again.
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am **Workshop Sessions**
Please consult the workshop descriptions and directions for the On-line Registration through Portal, in order to select a workshop.
NOTE: By selecting a workshop, you will be registered for the entire conference. There is no charge to LBPSB personnel.
Out-of-Board registrations are required to pay \$30.00, cheques payable to Lester B. Pearson School Board.
- 12:00noon Lunch provided.
- 1:00 pm **Schools Best Practices – ONE GREAT IDEA**
Participants will be able to attend four presentations, featuring school-based peace initiatives. The list and locations will be available at the conference.
- 2:15 pm **Plenary Session**
Speaker – Carolyn van Gorp
Carolyn has been an integral part of the work of PSI in Sierra Leone. Carolyn will share her experience and discuss the School Twinning Project.
Youth Panel – Students from our schools – elementary and secondary, and adult centres, will discuss their views of PSI in their school communities.

Workshops Session 10:00 am – noon

PEACEFULNESS IS A VIRTUE

Presented by

Maria de Souza,

LBPSB Spiritual Animator, Virtues Project™ Master Facilitator

The workshop offers a glimpse into the strategies that form the basis of The Virtues Project™. Participants will:

- Discover how The Virtues Project™ provides the much-needed foundation towards creating a peaceful environment.
- Understand the differences between this and other “Values” or “Character Education” programs.
- Learn why, when and where this program has been successful.

INDIVIDUAL, CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL-WIDE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS: WHAT’S IN A NAME?

Presented by Dr. Elana Bloom,

Psychologist, LBPSB Student Services

Research suggests that successfully including students with severe behavioural difficulties requires individual supports and systemic changes. Educators participating in this workshop will gain a better understanding of Positive Behavioural Supports (PBS) - a collaborative, practical, validated set of strategies for preventing and decreasing problem behaviours. Key features of PBS and how to concretely design positive behavioural support plans will be highlighted. Emphasis will be on the relationship between behaviour problems and events in the environment. In addition, how PBS can enhance academic performance, foster a safe learning environment, and establish a positive school community will be discussed.

INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS

Presented by Jovette Francoeur,

LBPSB Consultant for Special Needs / Intercultural Consultant

The workshop is designed for individuals who wish to continue to develop their intercultural awareness. Its aim is:

- To raise one’s level of self-awareness, especially in terms of culture
- To provide tools to encourage intercultural communication and collaboration
- To share ideas and examples which promote intercultural awareness in our schools

TWO P'S IN A POD: HOW PREVENTION AND PLANNING GO HAND-IN-HAND

Presented by Viviane Briand and Jean Duckett, LBPSB Consultants, Health Promotion

How do we know if our prevention initiatives really make a difference? How can we ensure that positive results are sustained?

Participants will learn how the LBPSB Consultants in Health Promotion can accompany schools through a recognized reflection and planning process (The Healthy Schools & Communities Approach) to make their prevention efforts more effective and sustainable.

RARing to Go: THE POWER OF RESILIENCE, ATTACHMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS IN PREVENTING DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOURS

Presented by Cindy Finn, Director, LBPSB Students Services

Research indicates that we can foster resilience by building strong relationships with our students. This workshop will focus on practical strategies that help develop connections with students and create positive school climates. Opportunities for discussion and skill building will be highlighted.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS: PRACTICAL IDEAS

(Suitable for K-6, Secondary Cycle One)

Presented by Judy Grant, LBPSB/PSI Regional Coordinator

Peer Mediation, Big Wheels Bus Program, Playground Ambassadors, Empathy Bridge, Peace Tables, [Peace@School](#) Toolkit and Storytelling – Our schools utilize a wide-range of tools to help students solve their own conflicts and to help their peers. As Regional Coordinator of PSI for LBPSB, Judy Grant has helped establish and support the implementation of these tools in many of our schools.

This session will be a hands-on workshop to present these ideas; a resource pack will be provided.

TEACHING CHILDREN TO TAKE A STAND

Presented by Evelyn Howard, Teacher, Thorndale School, 2007 Recipient of the Thomas and Riva Hecht Scholarship, and

Irene Romer, Holocaust survivor, 2000 Recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, Past Vice-President of The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Center where she is presently a speaker.

"Everything changed for me the day I turned 12. My father taught me never to wait for someone to help because it is up to each of us to take personal action." – Hendrik in *The Righteous Smuggler* by Debbie Spring. Teaching students to make the right choices is not easy. Taking the stance of the Bystander can seem like the only way to stay out of trouble. Using Debbie Spring's book and other related books, Mrs. Howard will

demonstrate lessons and rubrics to be used in the class. Participants will be given an extensive bibliography to facilitate teaching.

Mrs. Romer will talk of her first-hand experiences about the importance of not being a Bystander and making the right choices.

HOW TO DEVELOP AND NURTURE POSITIVE CLIMATES IN THE CLASSROOM/SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

Presented by FSSTT – Maureen Hunt, Charlene Altimas, Deb Williston-Laframboise, Sandra Bellini-Baldoni and Jason Duke

Based on the work of John Udis and Harry Wong, participants will learn how adults can engage in strategies and processes where a positive environment can be developed and maintained in their classrooms.

DON'T LAUGH AT ME™

Presented by Mary-Anne Fyckes and Randy Howarth, LBPSB Spiritual Animators

Don't Laugh at Me™ addresses issues of the heart as well as the mind. The workshop will support participants in creating a caring, compassionate and cooperative classroom and school environment. The workshop activities are designed to provide tools to participants to fulfill curriculum standards and build essential skills. This Hands-On workshop will focus on you as a member of a caring community characterized by:

- A healthy expression of feelings
- Caring, compassion and cooperation
- Creative resolution of conflicts
- An appreciation of differences

These activities will help you to empower your students to become important catalysts for change in your school and community.

UNDERSTANDING THE BULLYING DYNAMIC

Presented by Eva de Gosztanyi,
Coordinator of the Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Management,
Riverside School Board

Bullies are some of the most frustrating people in our schools. This presentation will dissect the bully syndrome to reveal its deep instinctive roots in the dynamics of attachment and vulnerability. This will explain why some of our common interventions do not seem to work. We will then briefly look at some promising interventions.

DISCRIMINATION DOESN'T HAPPEN HERE?

Presented by Meagan Thurston, Tolerance Foundation

The Tolerance Caravan is a prejudice and discrimination awareness activity that the Tolerance Foundation provides to Quebec schools and locations that request it. It offers a unique opportunity to interactively explore and discuss themes related to tolerance. This interactive workshop will help participants become aware of the tools with which society has equipped itself to fight attitudes of discrimination, such as the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We will also present techniques to help young people, individually and collectively, change attitudes and behaviours based on prejudice by exploring the use and consequences of pejorative language in the school environment and society at large. We will work with participants to help them practice standing up and speaking out in a way that makes them feel safe and comfortable when they hear homophobic, racist, sexist, etc., language being used.

Participants will be able to walk the PEACE HALLWAY to view the schools' presentations and footprints of peace, as well as the PEACEWRITERS WALL.