



Apropos...

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH IS A SERIOUS MATTER

Events have occurred in the past that show that youth who receive services from Batshaw are still vulnerable to exploitation by others, whether they be adults or peers. Sometimes the signs that exploitation is taking place are subtle and hidden from caregivers and concerned people. Perpetrators obviously don't want to reveal themselves. Victims can also conceal their own victimization out of fear, shame, loyalty, or the belief that secondary gains (eg: money, gifts, attention) are more important than the consequences of victimization.

Networks of people sometimes carry out exploitation. Sometimes it is practiced by one person, but repeatedly with many victims. To carry out its mandate of protection Batshaw has to maximize its ability to detect exploitation and act against it. To do so, one of the measures in place is a central person to whom all staff, volunteers and any other concerned person, can report any piece of information or suspicion. This person is:

Liz Pusztai, Manager, Professional Services Division 932-7161

By having all information pass before the eyes of the same person, we expect to increase our chances of detecting patterns and connections, which might otherwise go unnoticed. Liz is in a position to bring other resources into play, including our own security services and our relationship with the police. Protection of children and youth is the concern and obligation of everyone connected to Batshaw. Play your part by reporting to Liz anything that causes you concern in this regard.

KLASSENS VISIT DAWSON ALTERNATIVE

(Contributed by Jaqui Wall, Teacher, Dawson Alternative School)

During the week of February 25th, Dawson Alternative School organized a number of activities to celebrate Black history, which, while ongoing all year round, has particular significance in the month of February. Given the many ethnicities represented in our student and teacher population we discussed Black history not only as a very valuable subject in and of itself, but also as a vehicle to explore one's own unique cultural background.

In English class the students read and listened to the original recordings of famous speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and acted out a play based on the story of his life. In both French and English class, Black inventors and people of note were researched and discussed.

We were fortunate this year to receive well-known South African singers and activists Lorraine and Thandie Klassen as guest speakers at Dawson Alternative. In preparation for their visit we studied South Africa's geography and history, and viewed the movie "Cry Freedom".

The visit of the Klassens was very moving and particularly appropriate. Students were able to relate what they had discussed and learned.

GENEROSITY FOR PRE-ADOLESCENTS

(Contributed by Darlene Job, Child Care Worker, Tobin House, Child and Family Services)

This March break, the five pre-adolescent programs were treated to a wonderful meal at Bentley's up in St. Sauveur. Once again, the Generations Foundation, headed by Adrian and Nathalie Bercovicci, were very generous with their offer to treat all the children and staff. The outing was held on Wednesday, March 6th, right in the middle of the March break week. Colton Home and Tobin House also used this great winter day to go tubing. The kids and staff had a ball! The restaurant along with the Generations Foundation allowed everyone to choose from four items on the menu, pitchers of drinks kept on coming as well as desserts for all. As if this wasn't enough, when we all left, Adrian and Nathalie handed out Easter chocolates to everyone. We would like to thank the Generations Foundation for their thoughtfulness, time and dedication to the pre-ad group homes.

The Generations Foundation will be hosting their annual charity breakfast at La Stanza restaurant in St. Laurent on Friday, May 24th, from 6:30-9:30 a.m. Admission is \$7 to the breakfast buffet fundraiser. All money raised goes directly towards sending kids to camp this summer. The Generations Foundation also uses this money to send Batshaw kids to camp when our funds have run out. Show up for a great meal, and support kids going to camp!

PLAY BALL!!!

(Contributed by Bob Davey, Child Care Worker, Baillie program, Dorval campus)

Every year, on the second to last weekend in August, there is a softball tournament for all the youth centres in Quebec. It is always a fun event. If you are interested in playing, please contact one of the following people by e-mail or memo (please, no phone calls).

Men's team: Ron Golfman, Lindsay Cottage, Prévost

Women's team: Beverley Robinson, DYP-EO

Mixed team: Bob Davey, Baillie program, Dorval

BATSHAW EVENTS CALENDAR

April 21-27	Volunteer Week
May 13 th	Batshaw Board Meeting 6 Weredale Park For further information contact: Thérèse Gauthier at 989-1885
May 13 th to 17 th	la Semaine québécoise des familles
May 16 th	CCC Conference Conference theme: "The child, the family, the agency: Is three a crowd?" 6 Weredale Park For further information contact: Barbara Kemp at 989-1885
May 22 nd & 23 rd	Batshaw Aggression Replacement Therapy Conference For further information contact: Louise Auclair at 932-7161
June 15 th	Annual Pow Wow Prévost campus For further information contact: Dave Brown at 932-7722