



APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES

News from Michael Udy, Executive Director

SIGNS FOR NON-ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE

Many staff know and experience the fact that the work that we do carries with it varying levels of risk of violence. An important part of responding to this reality is Batshaw's position that we do not tolerate violence and are committed to addressing aggression and abuse with clear responses.

We have policies and practices in place to address violence. We continue to evaluate and develop better ways of integrating this commitment into our every day work. As part of this we have developed signs intended for everyone who uses Batshaw's premises to inform them clearly of our stance against all forms of violence and our firm commitment to the safety and well-being of staff and clients. These signs have started to appear throughout Batshaw's living units and administrative buildings. If more than one sign is required, your manager is able to get others from Violence Prevention Health and Safety Services.

Soon a pamphlet addressed to all staff regarding what is available in Batshaw to deal with violence will be distributed via your manager. They will also have a manager's guide to support them in assisting everyone to address violence effectively. These are a few of several initiatives intended to make sure that our work environment is safe.

MDC PROFESSIONAL DAY —Nov 17, 2006

(Contributed by Sandra Baines, Chair MDEC)

The 6th Annual Professional Day organized by the MDC Executive was held again in November and judging from the many who participated, both by attending and leading workshops, it was a complete success. Congratulations to the organizing committee chaired by Gina Carvalho of the foster care department.

The day began with a presentation by Gérald Savoie on the accreditation process with the question: Is client satisfaction important when we are delivering legally mandated services? A brief question and answer period followed. And before the workshops began, there was a screening of the short film, Social Circus, produced by DRTSA at the school at Prévost Campus, featuring the creative talents of our youth. This lively little film preceded a full day of more serious workshops highlighting the fine clinical work of our staff throughout the agency. Thanks to all who gave so generously of their time and talent to make this day such a success.

A SPOOKY EVENING AT THE LOUVRE

(Contributed by Jacqueline Wall, Head Teacher, Dawson Alternative School)

Students at Dawson Alternative School at Batshaw's Dorval Campus put a new twist on Halloween this year. The entire school participated in "A Spooky Evening at the Louvre", an A.R.T. role-playing game which combined character education, Halloween and scrumptious food – always a winning combination!!

As part of the A.R.T. monthly theme of "courage", students had chosen and researched the lives of famous people notable for their bravery. Clad in the appropriate costumes, these historical figures – who included Martin Luther King Jr., Terry Fox, the Dalai Lama, Gandhi and Helen Keller, among others – were dinner guests at the Louvre museum (sometimes known as our homeroom class). There, over cocktails, it was discovered that the Mona Lisa had gone missing. Each guest was interrogated and, with the aid of a series of cue cards, revealed aspects of his/her character and motivation. By the time dessert was served, the mystery was revealed and participants had participated in a stimulating role play which combined the best elements of A.R.T., history and moral education class.

A big "thank you" is due to the student participants, and the teachers and educators who participated in writing the script and making the "spooky evening" such a success!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We have reached that time of the year when we can take a pause, however brief, to focus on our families, friends and traditions. I wish all of you happy holidays. Equally, I wish you good health for the New Year which will bring important challenges and new steps in our collective effort to make Batshaw the best source possible of support to children and families who face difficulties.