BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION – Dare to Dream!

SPECIAL DARE TO DREAM!... AND GOOD SUMMER!

Margaret Douek, Executive Director

In December, I launched Dare to Dream! an opportunity given to employees to innovate in services to clients. In February, I informed you of the projects retained. Today, I want to share with you how it translated in reality. A number of those who got these wonderful ideas wrote about them.

This edition of Apropos is the last one before the summer break. It has been a very interesting year with all that we accomplished. We can be very proud of the outcomes. I wish you all a good summer!

OPEN DOORS FAMILY RESOURCES AND ACTIVITY GUIDE

Steven Abrams, Program Manager, DPS

Janet Sand and I created 750 Resource and Activity Guides containing practical and easy to access information distributed by all caseworkers to Batshaw families. The interactive guides contain useful and interesting ideas about good study habits, positive communication, child development, health, nutrition, ways to save money, local community and recreational resources and more. It was a great collaborative experience for everyone involved including youth from Support Link

NORTHVIEW KNIGHTS CHESS CLUB

Jason Vickers, Program Manager, DRTSA

Stemming from an idea from Bruce Riddell, a Northview educator, some help from our teacher and the support of Dare to Dream, the Northview Knights Chess Club was founded. We were able to purchase 6 beautiful chess sets, 3 chess clocks, books, DVD's and other materials to both teach chess (great to develop strategic thinking, problem solving, patience etc.) and hold some tournaments. The boys have embraced this new program, which certainly could be a great model for others... Any challengers for a game!?!

DVD PLAYER FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Rhonda Geffin, Human Relations Agent, DCFS

The rooms available for court ordered supervised visits are somewhat non-conducive for these contacts leaving the parents relatively limited in how they can interact with their child. To encourage parents to learn different methods of stimulation and improve the relationship with their child, I proposed having a television with a DVD player set up in one of the visitation rooms at Tupper and at Place Frontenac that would play educational interactive videos. The DVD's offer the parent a fun and entertaining teaching tool to help foster their child's development. The parents can enrich their child's development; consequently, enhancing their attachment.

WRITERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Colm McNamee, Coordinator, DRTSA

Dare to Dream! provided funding support for a group called "Writers in The Community", who have been involved with our schools for the past few years (Mountainview South and Dawson) in joint projects aimed at encouraging our school clients to use creative writing as a means to express themselves and find a voice (an initiative begun by Kim Kurtz). Our clients respond very well to these projects, discover skills they did not know they possessed, are encouraged and learn that they are able to articulate their stories and experiences in a creative form, and are proud of their accomplishments. The poems are published each session in the forms of "zines".

BOOKS AND GAMES FOR NORTHVIEW

Jason Vickers, Program Manager, DRTSA

Northview was lucky enough to benefit from the Dare to Dream! funds by getting some new books and games. It was actually a combination of two submissions from my team. It is always nice to refresh our books and games because they get damaged over time and it is a resource that can be used by many clients over many years.

BATSHAW CENTRES MUSIC PROGRAM

Sam Barile, Clinical Activity Specialist, DRTSA, Pamela Greenberg and Angela Pompura, Coordinators, DRTSA

The main goals are to allow youths to learn how to develop their own music and to foster the growth of the music media as therapeutic program. Music therapy has been shown to help youth with communication problems, attention, motivation and behavioral problems. The purchased instruments and recording equipment will be available to staff who develop a music program.

BOOKS FOR PRÉVOST CAMPUS

Angela Pompura, Coordinator, DRTSA

Promoting literacy and encouraging creativity and imagination were some of Kyle Stanley's goals... Thanks to her submission to the Dare to Dream! Project, Prévost Campus units received monies towards the purchase of books and magazine subscriptions for the youths residing in the closed and open units. Each unit at Prévost benefited from Kyle's creativity and hard work!

APROPOS

BATSHAW YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRES



SPECIAL DOUBLE EDITION (cont'd) - Other subjects...

KIM, YOU WERE IN ALL OUR HEARTS...

On May 28th, all Batshaw Youth and Family Centres' participants in the Montreal portion of La Route sans fin wore a pink ribbon in honour of Kim Van Der Water, an educator who lost her battle against cancer. Last year, she rode along with the youths and this year she helped them get ready for the event even if her health was declining.

Kim, you were in all our hearts...

A NEW PROTOCOL FOR OUR YOUTHS ENTERING ADULTHOOD

Tony Maciocia, Coordinator, DRTSA

On May 12th, Batshaw Centres, *Centre jeunesse de Montréal - Institut universitaire* (CJM-IU) and *Emploi-Québec de l'Île-de-Montréal*, signed a new Protocol, that will see giving access to youth entering adulthood (16-24), a better way to get information about employability and securing funds to help them make the transition to the community.

The protocol was signed by our Executive Director, Margaret Douek, Jean-Marc Potvin Executive Director CJM-IU and Louise Poisson Regional Director Emploi-Québec de l'Île-de-Montréal The event was hosted by the Agence and was well attended by many community partners. As well, a delegation of staff from the SOA services attended the signing and followed by a cocktail with a great opportunity to network with community partners.

We look forward to having a strong collaboration with *Emploi-Québec* in the coming years!!

RESOURCE FAIR

Danny Hoelscher, Educator, EQUIP Program, DRTSA

Batshaw Centres' Services to Older Adolescents has always acknowledged the importance of collaborating with and exposing our youth to community resources. Early on in the EQUIP pilot project program, our colleagues in the Outaouais region organized a *Matinée Jeunesse* bringing together youth and community resources in the Gatineau area. In the spring of 2005, Batshaw Centres held its own version calling it the Community Resource Fair. Two other fairs were held in 2007 and 2008. On April 19th, 2011 at Mountainview High School, our fourth Community Resource Fair was held.

Using the Circle of Courage theme, eight different organizations presented their services to forty youth from both Batshaw Centres and the community. Each quadrant of the Circle of Courage was represented by two different partners. Generosity was included in the presentations by our partners, Share the Warmth and Friends for Mental Health. Mastery had representatives from the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the *Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi* from Côte-

des-Neiges. Belonging had Portage West Island and L'Autre Maison present their services. Finally, Services to Older Adolescents' main focus of Independence included our partners from Héberjeune and Head and Hands.

The forty youth were divided into groups of ten and moved around the school listening in on each of the organizations' ten-minute presentation. The morning concluded with door prizes and a pizza lunch for everybody. Overall, the collaborative effort by all involved proved to be very successful with positive feedback given by both youth and presenters. The Services to Older Adolescents team is now discussing making the Community Resource Fair a regular event.

MISSINGKIDS.CA, A NEW WEBSITE TO ADD TO YOUR FAVORITES

Margaret Godbeer, Access Liaison, DYP

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection wants families of missing children to know that they don't have to search alone. On the eve of International Missing Children's Day, the Canadian Centre launched MissingKids.ca — Canada's national missing children resource centre.

MissingKids.ca compliments the important work of law enforcement by offering families additional resources to help find their missing children. The service provides a central place for families to register their missing child to request support from a trained caseworker, as well as critical educational information to help prevent children from going missing.

Using new technologies, *MissingKids.ca* uses innovative online search tools that bring a modern approach to the traditional way of searching for lost or missing children. From the online registration process to the use of social media such as Facebook and wireless technologies (cell phones, text messages), the service helps parents understand and leverage these helpful tools to locate their missing children. The Canadian public can also sign up to receive missing child alerts so individuals may become a part of the search for the nation's missing children.

MissingKids.ca is proud to work in collaboration with Enfant-Retour Québec to provide missing children's services to residents of Québec. Enfant-Retour will partner to provide case management services to searching parents/guardians from this province and will work in collaboration with MissingKids.ca caseworkers on other cases across Canada when needed. The website is bilingual.

Check it out. http://missingkids.ca