

# Career Development Info

Issue 9 | April 1, 2011

Personal Orientation Project | Exploration of Vocational Training | Entrepreneurship | Work Oriented Training Path

It's April already! The 2010-2011 school year is racing to a close. But it's not too late—not too late to set final priorities and consider a few questions. Have you browsed the Career Development Web site and tried some of the new resources? Have you tried out some of the tips and ideas found in this year's newsletters? Have you shared a picture of a useful classroom management strategy, sent in an activity, or shared an experience? There is still time to share with your community and perhaps win a prize. See the end of page 3.

## Mentoring.....

by: Lynn Bourdeau | teacher | EMSB

Three teachers visited my class during the last week of February. It was an enriching experience for me in many ways. First, I looked at my classroom and decided it needed to be cleaned . . . Then I took a look at what I had been doing with my students and I decided what would be of value for my visitors to see. I planned for their visit and it gave me a chance to review my teaching practices; I was going to explain how my kids got to where they are, what tools I used to get them there and finally where I was going from there. The visits were great! Having teachers in my classroom created a great dynamic; the kids realized that someone else could answer their questions, and they were keen to show what they knew (well most of them anyways!). I think the teachers who came to visit had a good day. They took away some new ideas or confirmed that what they are doing is very much the same as what I am doing. It feels good to know we are on the same page.

I also got to visit another mentor's class and this too was very enlightening. Seeing the dynamic between Brent and his kids reminded me that the program content in the POP class, unlike language or other subjects, is always related to the students' personalities, interests, abilities and goals. We constantly talk about what is important to the students and lead them in their reflections about their future. We give them tools to use and let them choose which ones are best. This program gives us an opportunity to create a special bond. I enjoyed my visit tremendously.

## WOTP Boy Smarts.....

by: Ingrid Hove Gust, MEd, c.o. | WOTP Project Development Officer

"Boy Smarts" is probably a familiar phrase to you by now, especially if you managed to attend one of the highly popular workshops given recently in Montreal by Barry MacDonald, author of Boy Smarts: Mentoring Boys for Success at School (Mentoring Press, 2005). In many of our Work Oriented Training Path (WOTP) classrooms across the province the majority of students are boys, and so I eagerly dug into MacDonald's book and registered for his session. The book is an easy read, and offers 100 practical Guidelines for teaching, communicating with, and understanding boys. In addition, there are suggestions for classroom organization, assessment of learning, and methods of discipline that respect a boy's view of the world. As I read Boy Smarts, I was often reminded of successful projects and approaches that WOTP teachers I know and respect have already implemented. They should write books too! For example, MacDonald's Guideline Number 70, *Connect with Nature*, reminds me of a great outdoor camping experience organized yearly for a WOTP class in the Laurentians. The students learn how to build campfires, snowshoe and take a wilderness first aid course. Guideline 69, *Promote the Use of Technology*, reminds me of the WOTP teacher who wisely allows his students to put down their pens and explore a topic from behind the lens of a video or digital camera to create a movie or photo essay. Guideline 78, *Stay Outside of a Boy's Conflict Cycle*, makes me think of the soft spoken and patient WOTP teacher who, instead of relying on punishment, helps his students develop communication skills and conflict resolution skills; skills that they desperately need and that will serve them well for a lifetime.

MacDonald's chapter on motivation addresses issues that WOTP teachers face daily in their classrooms. His advice for helping unmotivated boys who feel unsuccessful at school, mirrors the approaches that good WOTP teachers either know intuitively or have

learned through experience: Listen Beyond Bravado; Recognize Strengths; Transform Shame to Honour; Understand that Belief Becomes Destiny.

Many of the suggestions in the chapter on literacy correspond well with the principles of the Advanced 5 classroom structure that Lynn Senecal is encouraging for WOTP ELA. For example, MacDonald agrees that choice in reading material is important; many boys prefer non-fiction to novels. Humorous books, sports magazines and books with plenty of visual appeal are legitimate ways to engage reluctant readers. Last but not least, if you don't like the book you are reading, you are free to choose another one! I especially like the description of how NOT to engage boys in reading, found under Guideline 59 (you'll have to look up this one!).

Despite the title of his book, MacDonald cautions us against overgeneralizing the differences between boys and girls and against treating boys as a homogeneous group. Of course not all boys are the same, and there are many similarities in how both boys and girls learn. However, the practical guidelines in this book are worth reading and deserve consideration for our WOTP boys.

To read more by Barry MacDonald go to:

<http://www.MentoringBoys.com>

For more information on the Advanced 5 for WOTP ELA, contact lead teacher Jennifer Abrantes:

[jabrantes@swlauriersb.qc.ca](mailto:jabrantes@swlauriersb.qc.ca)

To learn more about the Work Oriented Training Path, email Ingrid at: [ihove@swlauriersb.qc.ca](mailto:ihove@swlauriersb.qc.ca)

### Now Here's a Website that Speaks to Teenagers!.....

What might a high school student's home desk look like? A laptop, a phone, an MP3 player, some pens and pencils, junky snacks, a sugary drink and hopefully, a few books and copybooks. That is exactly what the "Manufacturing is Cool" Web site's home page offers. By moving their cursor over the different objects on the desk, students can discover many types of engineering manufacturing careers. Each object on the desk leads to a different corner in a youngster's room. There is something for everyone: moving mechanics, fabricating fashion, cookery and cuisine, chatting technology, art, music and so much more! The Society of Manufacturing

Engineers Educational Foundation Web site also provides a list of other Web sites that students could visit. These are kept in the green book "What's Cool, What's New" that is on the desk.

Explore this site. Go to:

<http://www.manufacturingiscool.com/>

It is worth going through "the mess!"



### Values Auction.....

by: Kelly Butler | consultant | Western Quebec School Board

Activity: Values Auction

Here is an activity that has been integrated into the POP program as one of the many ways in which values education can be incorporated into curricula.

- Direct students by saying: You are about to participate in an auction with \$300 each to spend purchasing a job/jobs in which you are interested.
- Ask students to refer to their "Values Auction Sheet." See page 3 of this newsletter.
- Give students 5-10 minutes to read each job description to decide which one(s) they are interested in buying and how much they would like to bid. They will be bidding on job descriptions but won't yet know the actual job title associated with each description.
- Explain that the amount they are willing to bid should reflect how important getting that job is to them. They may bid on one or more jobs. They should remember that they are competing against each other for these jobs.
- Using a lot of energy and a loud "auctioneer-type" voice, begin by reading each job description. Bids can begin at \$10 and go up from there until someone outbids all of the others and wins the job.
- As the purchases are made, keep track of who buys what.

- At the end of the auction, go through the sheet of job descriptions and tell students the titles of the jobs they purchased.

### Values Auction Sheet

1. BE YOUR OWN BOSS! An exciting opportunity for anyone who is willing to put in long hours, work hard and create your own earning potential. Perfect if you like excitement, working with people and watching your money grow!
2. Very busy shop is looking for YOU! Our company is growing and looking for a bright, energetic person who likes working with people and state-of-the-art equipment in a fun environment. Good pay for the right person.
3. Have fun! Set your own hours! Work with people like yourself! Get great company perks! A fast-paced company that is as diverse as the customers it serves wants you to join its team. Training is provided, full and part time are available, with many positions to choose from. High school education preferred but not essential. Hiring now!
4. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY . . . We are looking for dynamic and self-motivated individuals who are willing to learn the business, can handle a variety of tasks, who want to build a solid future and enjoy an aggressive pay plan. Call today.
5. If you are motivated by MONEY & CHALLENGE, WE WANT YOU! Our national office is seeking proven leaders who are energetic and success oriented to join our top team. If you are interested in a potential monthly commission with no cap and you have experience in sales, do not hesitate to contact us NOW!
6. Do you like to make a difference in others' lives? Are you interested in working in an environment that promotes bringing others together? The right candidate will be able to work in a variety of settings, helping others to complete their lives. Previous experience working in a busy office required, with the ability to work with people and alone. Minimum of a college diploma. CONTACT OUR OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
7. Frustrated with long hours and lack of opportunity? Progressive company seeks people oriented individuals with service industry background for career opportunity, local and overseas. No

experience necessary. We will train the right individuals. Travel available. CALL NOW!

8. Low pay with a real opportunity to make a difference! Work with others who are interested in saving the planet. Be part of a team that is changing the way others see and work in the world. Hiring team captains to lead our agency into the new millennium. Your chance to make a real difference!

### Answers To The Values Auction Sheet

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|--|--|
| 1. Avon Sales Representative                                       | 2. Auto-body Repairer  |
| 3. McDonald's  | 4. Car Rental Leasing Agent  |
| 5. Student Loans Collections Agent for Corporate Recovery Services | 6. Veterinarian's Assistant at a local animal hospital/adoption agency |
| 7. Bartender   | 8. Team Leader for Greenpeace  |

### Evaluation Framework Session Web site available.....

The [Evaluation Framework](#): Personal Orientation Project, Exploration of Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship, and Integrative Project Workshop session materials are now available on our curriculum web site.

Please go to:

POP:

[http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career\\_dev/pop/Workshops\\_new.html](http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/pop/Workshops_new.html)

Explo:

[http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career\\_dev/explo/Workshops\\_new.html](http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/explo/Workshops_new.html)

EN:

[http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career\\_dev/entrepreneurship/Workshops\\_new.html](http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/entrepreneurship/Workshops_new.html)

Consultants: use your LEARN username and password to access the consultant section for additional workshop materials.

### Contests | Sign-up to win! | Capture it!

**On-Going *Capture it!* 2010-2011 Contest:** On-going this year, we invite you to take a picture of a useful classroom management strategy, send in an activity, or share your experiences, etc. and each month we will select one person's idea to share on the Web site and to win an environmentally friendly bag. Prizes donated by LEARN. **Contest draw:** monthly. The winner will be announced on the CD Web site.

Go to: [http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career\\_dev/](http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/)

### Previous issues available on-line

[http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career\\_dev/](http://learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/)