

the GOAL post

Curriculum and Community: two "C" words that connect

When schools link up with organizations and businesses in their communities, students come out ahead.

Students enrich their experience beyond the classroom and get the chance to explore different fields with adults working in a variety of industries.

Creating direct links between the subjects taught in school and actual people in the community is a main objective of the Guidance-Oriented Approach to Learning.



Beyond the classroom

Lindsay Place students listen as Marilyn Vaver from Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth explains the ins and outs of hotel management. See p. 3.

"Collaboration with the community" and "infusion of career development components" are two principles guiding the implementation of GOAL. As you read on, you'll see how different schools are putting students in touch with their communities through job shadowing, *Take our Kids to Work™*, an e-business experiment and *The Real Game*.

Third annual GOAL Forum for Success

"Achieving Goals through Curriculum and Community Links" is the theme of the

upcoming *Forum for Success 2006*. With three panelists from industry, 24 round tables and workshops, sector council representatives and a new Exhibitors in Action component, this event is specifically designed to bring the two "Cs"

TANGIBLE BENEFITS

FROM COMMUNITY LINKS

- School-community partnerships put students in contact with potential mentors, resource persons and employers.
- Local businesses and organizations can provide resources free of charge (speakers, industry-specific materials, group visits, work-study projects, etc.)

together. Teachers, counsellors, GOAL coordinators, pedagogical consultants and administrators are invited to share their best practices with respect to GOAL and community links.

Lastly, since GOAL is all about making connections, please feel free to contribute to *The GOAL Post* and to share in the mosaic of GOAL riches from across the province!

Goalfully yours,

Sandra Salesas
Provincial Coordinator, GOAL

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Making Dreams
Come True

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

Forum for Success 2006

April 6, 2006
Dorval Airport Hilton Hotel

Achieving Goals through Curriculum and Community Links

Keynote speakers:

Ainsley Rose, Director of Educational Services, WQSB
&

Noel Burke, MELS' Assistant Deputy Minister for the English-Speaking Community

Delegates have been named from each school board to attend. Ask your GOAL Networking Committee representative who your delegates are so you can share in their learning.

Checked the Goal Web site lately? It's always being updated.

Get ready for the Personal Orientation Project!

by Cheryl Pratt

The POP is coming as of September 2007—and so are the resources to support it.

If you missed the article in the Fall 2005 edition of *The GOAL Post*, the Personal Orientation Project is a new Secondary Cycle Two course that will give students a central role in discovering, exploring and reflecting upon various fields and occupations that interest them. In the process, they may try out a variety of work functions, supported always by pedagogical resources.

Want to learn more?

- Find out which representatives of your school board attended the POP training session in November 2005 and ask them about their experience. A similar session was offered at the Implementation Design Committee's 2006 Leadership Symposium in February.
- Read about the POP in the December 2005 *Schoolscapes*' article on "Diversification of Educational Paths."
- Attend the **POP introductory session** scheduled for **April 7, 2006**, the day after the GOAL Forum for Success. (The POP session will also be held at the Dorval Hilton.)

Schoolscapes is available online at http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/virage/journal_ang/PDF/Schoolscapes6-2.pdf

The pedagogical resources to support this new course are now in development. "Tool kits" are being translated and adapted for the English sector and work is progressing on an English-language ministerial Web site— a virtual resource library. We are researching the career resources needed to support the POP, as well as forming partnerships with communities, businesses, government, sector councils and other organizations. As always, we are listening to your concerns and brainstorming solutions that will meet the needs of our English sector.

Got a question?

E-mail **Cheryl Pratt**, English sector representative on the POP program development team, at cpratt@lbpsb.qc.ca or telephone her at 1-888-622-2212

GOAL IN ACTION

Tapping into community resources

by Leslie Shuster, c.o., Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Working with local police enabled the guidance team at Rosemere High School to help a group of Secondary V students explore their interest in law enforcement.

Case #1

Chantale Lefebvre of the Rosemere Police's prevention and community relations service picked up the students at school and spent a half-day showing them around the police department. The students returned to school armed with confidence and information about the challenging road ahead.

Case #2

Joey Dufault, a former Rosemere graduate (class of 2001) and newly hired officer with the Kirkland police force, was delighted to return to his alma mater as a guest speaker in **Paul Goodman's** Career Choice class. Joey's example inspired the students and showed them how to realize their dreams and ambitions.

Going once, going twice ... gone!

by Patty Arnold, Riverside School Board

"Supply and demand" takes on new meaning for Adult Education students who embark on Robert More's e-business adventure.

"One man's garbage is another man's treasure." That could be the rallying cry of **Robert More**, an economics teacher at **ACCESS Continuing Education Centre**, when he challenges his students to start an e-business by marketing and selling items on eBay.



Rob More explains how to tie a fishing lure—giving his students another product for their e-business.

Enlisting the help of families and friends, students dig up articles for sale that might otherwise be destined for the curb. They also purchase items (some for less than \$1.00) for resale. And sell they do—from a long forgotten artist's CD that went for \$5, to the Canadian Airborne Special Forces tie picked up second-hand for \$1.49 that sold at auction for \$51! Aided by their fishing-enthusiast teacher, some students are also learning to make and distribute fishing flies.

Significant cross-curricular learning

"Initially, the profit motivation may be more of an incentive than class marks,"

notes Robert. All the same, his students now understand the concepts of supply and demand, capitalism and exchange rates. They see how strong writing skills and a good description can help to sell a product. Their IT skills have grown and they have a better sense of geography from charting their exports across much of North America.

Robert More views e-commerce as an opportunity for young people to explore their entrepreneurial instincts. "Online businesses remove the need for expensive downtown locations. There are no restrictions on store hours and most of the inventory is in the form of a digital image." He has some final words of advice to future e-business creators: "Let the students deal directly with suppliers for materials and accept that sometimes they will make poor purchases. It's a good lesson in cross-border duties and shipping charges."

Profits from the e-business venture are donated to various charities.

One teacher's practical guide to e-business

For tips on starting a class e-business project, consult **Robert More's "Become an Entrepreneur" Web site** at <http://www.recitfga.qc.ca/english/activities/sitsat-2005/Robert/index.htm>.

Hotel management: up close and personalized

by Sandra Salesas, c.o.

A visit to Montreal's Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth gave students from Lindsay Place High School an inside look at hotel management—and Beatle history.

All 18 participating students had mentioned to their guidance counsellor, **Inese Godins**, that they were interested in exploring careers in hotel management. A private tour organized by the **Lester B. Pearson School Board's** Centre for Educational Excellence and Fairmont staff let them do just that.

"It was a unique opportunity for these Secondary V students to immerse themselves in the world of a Montreal hotel icon," says **Nancy Battet** of the Centre for Educational Excellence. "Meeting people in various occupations from the Front Desk to Food Services and Housekeeping, the students discovered that a hotel is very much its own self-contained city, complete with police and paramedics."

The students were intrigued to discover that chefs can work as many as 20 hours a day during very busy periods, such as the Grand Prix. They also learned how critical good housekeeping is to a hotel's reputation and that event planning, which falls under Banquet Services, requires specialized training in fine foods, wine and cheeses.

Marilyn Vawer, the hotel's Tour and Leisure director, went out of her way to welcome the students and answer their questions. "She explained that the hotel industry offers a lot of room for career advancement and mobility between properties," adds Nancy. "She also encouraged them to apply for the many summer jobs available for students at the Queen Elizabeth and other hotels and resorts."

As a result of this visit, several of the students are now polishing their CVs with an eye to gaining valuable experience.



Legendary "Bed-In" site tops off tour

Guidance counsellor **Inese Godins** sits between two students in the Queen Elizabeth's John Lennon and Yoko Ono suite, where the couple recorded "Give Peace a Chance."

"Take our Kids to Work" takes off

by Leslie Shuster, c.o., Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

Take our Kids to Work™ is a national program that encourages Secondary III students to participate in a typical workday with a parent, relative or family friend.

The initiative became a reality for approximately 20 **Laurentian Regional High School** Career Choice students on November 2, 2005. Teacher, **Ann Cuvillier**, and I (a guidance counsellor) were excited to pilot this project for the **Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board** with Ann's students.

Using a team-teaching approach, we explained to students that they would see their parent in a different role and get a better understanding of what adults do to earn a living and support a family. The day would also stimulate their thinking about career planning and educational choices.

"I think all Secondary III students should have a chance to go to work with their parents."

Dylan Bennett, LRHS

those positive results, a *Take our Kids to Work* day was organized for students at Rosemere High School in February.

Want to know more?

Take our Kids to Work is organized nationally by The Learning Partnership every November. For full details, consult www.takeourkidstowork.ca



The other side of shopping

LRHS student **Robyn Clermont** (left) spent her day with **Arantxa Comas**, who works at *Mouvement Mode*, a clothing boutique in Lachute, and is the mother of a friend.

To order The GOAL Post

The *GOAL Post* is distributed by **Learning Materials**, a division of **LEARN**. To order extra copies, contact **Doris Kerec** at **1-888-622-2212** (e-mail <dkerec@eerflmc.qc.ca>). The *GOAL Post* is also available on the *GOAL* Web site.

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RESOURCE CENTRAL

Skills and your Teen

by Sandra Salesas, c. o.

By the time teens reach the age of 18, they have accumulated over 500 skills and are learning new ones every day.

You'll find that tidbit of information in an easy-to-read and informative pamphlet from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada called *Skills and Your Teen*. The pamphlet identifies the types of skills teens develop from activities as diverse as learning math, creating art, babysitting, doing homework, making friends and even spending money. It also shows how those skills

can eventually be transferred to hundreds of different jobs.

A good set of transferable skills is probably the best insurance anyone can have for a healthy and successful career. While the pamphlet is aimed at parents or guardians of young people, it can also be a useful tool for educators and counsellors.

You can access an online version of the pamphlet at:

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/asp/gateway.asp?hr=en/hip/hrp/career_awareness/skillsweb/skillsweb1.shtml&hs=ixr To order a printed version, email: publications@rhdc-hrsdc.gc.ca

GOAL IN ACTION

Imagining life beyond school

by Marsha Gouett, English Montreal School Board, and Laurene Bennett

Last spring, Darlene Williams, a teacher at Vincent Massey Collegiate, attended a workshop on The Real Game as part of the 2005 GOAL Forum for Success. What she learned has already had an impact on her Secondary II Home Economics students.

The Real Game Series uses role-playing and other simulation exercises to engage students in career exploration and the development of life skills. Darlene saw it as a tool to get her students thinking about what their lives might be like once they leave school.

She began by assigning each of her 12 students an occupation selected at random from a list that included tour operator, pediatrician, sports broadcaster, carpenter, postal worker, meteorologist and gardener. "If I had left it up to the students, they would have all wanted to be high-paid

doctors and lawyers," notes Darlene. The next step was to pair them into "couples," so that they not only had to think in terms of a life with specific work hours, responsibilities and income, they also had to factor in a spouse and children. "The students are taking the whole exercise really seriously," adds Darlene. "They sit with their 'spouse' during class and we've had spats over budgets!"

Organizing a Networking Breakfast took the students' learning a notch further. "In real life it's not always that easy to know what to say to people when you meet them." So Darlene had the students create business cards, assume their occupational role and practise their networking skills with their peers during the course of a breakfast meeting. "Regardless of what we do in life,



Darlene Williams (back row) and students pose with Global TV reporter Richard Dagenais (back, far left) and cameraman (back, far right).

we all have skills that are useful—either altruistically or in a business sense. I wanted the students to be able to look beyond specific traits and see value in each other."

Interestingly, what started out as a simulated networking experience turned into a real-life opportunity. The breakfast initiative caught the imagination of the media and was featured on Global TV's "This Morning Live."

Internationally recognized

The Real Game Series was developed by a former teacher from Newfoundland.

To learn more about it, visit www.realgame.ca



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