

the GOAL post

Making the most of the transition to high school

The passage from elementary to high school is an opportunity to get students thinking about themselves, their futures and their ability to adapt to change.



Students helping students

John Morstad, *The Gazette (Montreal)*

Entering high school is usually one of the first stressful transitions we encounter in our lives. These students at **Centennial Regional High School** in Greenfield Park participated in a summer camp to ease that transition for incoming Secondary I students. Senior students, who had acted as camp counsellors, were also very present when school began. Their yellow arm bands identified them as "student helpers" whom newcomers could approach if they got lost, couldn't open their lockers or just needed someone to talk to. The Conference Board of Canada suggests that being adaptable is a key skill needed to progress in the world of work. Centennial's example shows how senior students can help younger students adapt to change.

The transition from elementary to high school can be at once exciting, confusing and frightening. Incoming students worry about making new friends or losing their way in an unfamiliar building. Will they be able to cope with an increased workload? How will they know which courses to choose and which of the paths to eventually follow?

Many Elementary Cycle 3 teachers use a variety of learning situations to prepare students for this transition. Introducing them to sample timetables and report cards or giving them a tour of their future high school equips students mentally to adapt to change. Doing a multiple intelligence questionnaire as part of language arts not only increases verbal skills, it can help students to recognize their own type of intelligence and have confidence in their ability to learn. Getting them to describe their past successes or present challenges is another way to encourage greater self-knowledge.

Conducting these activities in the classroom channels students' fear of the unknown into a learning context for personal and career development. Teachers can reinforce this guidance-oriented approach by working closely with counsellors, psychologists and other complementary educational services staff. Through this collaboration, students also gain additional adult contacts with whom they can pursue specific questions or concerns.

A priority of the GOAL Network this year is to develop learning and evaluation situations to prepare students for the passage from elementary to high school and from Secondary Cycle 1 to Secondary Cycle 2. Stay tuned!

Sandra Salesas

Sandra Salesas, c.o., ccc
Provincial Coordinator, GOAL

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You could well be using the guidance-oriented approach to learning in your classroom.

You may just not be calling it that.

Learning that involves the whole school

The guidance-oriented approach to learning was at work when students from **John F. Kennedy Elementary** in Laval got their whole school community involved in creating a more visually pleasing learning environment. See story page 3.



Making Dreams Come True

Check the GOAL website for regular updates:

www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/mels/goal

More than 2,000 attend Science and Technology Days

by Nancy Battet, Lester B. Pearson School Board

This annual GOAL-friendly event shows LBPSB students how their community is putting science and technology to work.

Over two days this past May, the LBPSB's Interactive Community Partnership Program organized the board's sixth annual *John Scholefield Science and Technology Days*. More than 2,000 students, teachers and administrators attended the event, which is tied to the annual Space Day (www.spaceday.org) educational initiative celebrated internationally.

Upwards of 30 local organizations active in aviation, aerospace and other areas of science and technology shared their expertise with elementary and high school students from 12 schools. Led by Cooper Aviation, which hosted the event, participating organizations included the Canadian Space Agency, Cosmodome Laval, Air Canada, Bombardier and Rolls-Royce, among many others. Their efforts showed our students how Canada—and their community—is a leader in technology and how that same technology is used in everyday life.

Visionary sponsor

John Scholefield, the late president of Laurentide Aviation, was the event's original sponsor in 2003. To offer students an insight into how math, science, aviation and engineering are used in the outside world, he turned the grounds of his flight school once a year into a large outdoor classroom. The event was named in his honour after his untimely death in 2005.



These grade 4 students learn about aviation and flight from Bill Wyman, a pilot with the St-Lazare Flying Club.

November 16th is National Entrepreneurship Day



November 16th
yours to create!



In keeping with this year's "Yours to create!" theme, activities that promote and showcase different forms of entrepreneurship are being organized throughout Quebec. If your school already has projects up and running or if you would like to create one for National Entrepreneurship Day, contact **Katherine Korakakis** or **Josée-Ann Cloutier**, coordinator for English-sector youth entrepreneurship projects at the *Réseau des carrefours jeunesse-emploi du Québec*. You can reach them at (514) 393-9155 ext. 208 or email josee-ann@cjereseau.org

Discover entrepreneurial activities you can use with students of all ages at www.entrepreneurship-day.org

November 20-21, 2008

Watch for GOAL at QPAT

Find out how GOAL links to the QEP and enriches teaching practices.

The GOAL Network is foregoing a separate symposium this year in favour of integrating several GOAL-inspired workshops into the QPAT convention. By reaching out to more educators in this way, the network aims to further the implementation of the guidance-oriented approach within school settings.

Look for these GOAL-related workshops:

◆ Integrating Technology in the POP classroom

Learn how career explorations, reflective journals, online activities and other 21st-century skills contribute to student development.

Presenter: **Chris Colley**, Teacher, Massey-Vanier High School



◆ The Learning Partnership: an overview of successful programs

"Take our Kids to Work" allows students to see first-hand what their parents do for a living. Discover what other initiatives are coming your way from this national organization.

Presenter: **Jacynthe Dallaire**, Program manager (Quebec)

◆ Introducing Prelude: A New Group Learning Game

The Eastern Townships School Board is using *Prelude* to foster self-knowledge, cooperation and appreciation for diversity. Learn why.

Presenters: **Gail Klinck** (Massey-Vanier), **Suzanne Dery** (ETSB), **Howard Esbin** (Heliotrope)

◆ Entrepreneurship Education: The Incubator Project



Group activities initiate teachers to entrepreneurship education and the links between it and the QEP.

Presenter: **Despina Sourias**, Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Awareness and Promotion Officer, Montreal

◆ Understanding the Career Development Process for POP teachers

Explore the different phases of the career development process as they relate to POP competencies.

Presenter: **Sandra Salesas**, Provincial Coordinator, GOAL

For the full convention program, visit <http://www.qpat-apeq.qc.ca>

The environmentally friendly art project that grew

by Dan Tremblay, Principal, John F. Kennedy Elementary School

Hiring someone to enliven this Laval school's bare walls wasn't an option. So students took matters into their own creative hands and natural leadership skills emerged.

John F. Kennedy Elementary is very proud of our student-created *Enviro-Art* project that has met various needs within our school community and involved many students, teachers and parents.

Koutsogianopoulos. "The children referred to a mural painted by Cycle 3 students at Souvenir Elementary," says Ralia. "They said, 'If they can do it, then we can do it too!'" When she explained that there was no budget for such a project, "the students simply concluded that we had to raise money."

A mural-painting roster got students from all levels, staff, parents and other volunteers contributing.

The project continued to grow with the involvement of other students, teachers and volunteers. Colleagues **Sandra Malone** and **Jessica Altieri** joined Ralia in the art club, and through the winter, its members drew a series of sketches for the mural, using techniques the teachers were showing them. In the spring, the teachers helped the students photocopy, cut and assemble their drawings to form a coherent illustration of "The



To get money for materials—and fill a need for inexpensive gifts at the same time—the group decided to create and sell environmentally friendly holiday cards to the rest of the John F. Kennedy community.

Last Day of School"—the mural theme chosen by the students. The teachers also helped organize a mural-painting roster, with students from all levels, staff, parents and other volunteers all contributing their talents. The unveiling occurred fittingly on the last day of school.

Where GOAL fits in

The finished mural, now displayed prominently in the school's foyer, symbolizes many of the values that are central to John F. Kennedy Elementary: friendship and community life, the importance of reading, respect for the environment and for diversity. In keeping with the guidance-oriented approach, the participating students learned more about themselves and their abilities. They developed confidence in their creativity, leadership and organizational skills, while experiencing the teamwork and tenacity needed to achieve a common goal.

Ralia supervised the students as they used recycled greeting cards and a collage technique to produce new cards for sale in time for Christmas. The young entrepreneurs used the \$150 they earned to buy paint and other materials for the longed-for mural. But that was just the first step in its realization.

Special thanks to students **Anika Govindaraja**, **Sabrina Nolasco** and **Victoria Olders** whose persistence led to the mural's creation. As a result of their efforts, the school was awarded a \$750 MELs Student Entrepreneurship Grant.

Enviro-Art was born in the fall of 2007 when a small core of Cycle 3 students wanted to spruce up their school's entrance with a welcoming mural. The students were members of a new lunchtime art club started by teacher **Ralia**

Explo field test completed

So that's what vocational training is all about!

Exploration of Vocational Training—or "Explo"—exposes students to a whole range of viable career options that they may have never before considered.

Between January and June 2008, the New Frontiers School Board's two secondary schools—**Howard S. Billings Regional High School (HSB)** and **Chateauguay Valley Regional High School (CVR)**—field tested this new course that will soon be offered across the province as a Secondary IV option.



CVR's **Sasha Geukjian** (left) and HSB's **Desmond Byrne** were the two field test teachers.

"From a GOAL point of view, the field test showed how schools and vocational centres can work together to help students make more informed choices about their future," says

Cheryl Pratt, provincial coordinator (English sector) for POP and Explo.

"Too often, students have only been encouraged to go into vocational training if they were failing at something else," she adds. "With Explo, we're sending a new message to students. We're saying, 'If vocational training is where your passions lie, if this fits with your aspirations and abilities, then here's what's

available.' Whether they decide to pursue it or not, they can explore what's out there in a convenient, familiar environment."

In addition to HSB and CVR, other schools offering Explo this year include: **Three Rivers Academy (CQSB)**, **Program Mile End (EMS)**, **Macdonald High School (LBPSB)**, **Joliette High School (SWLSB)** and **St-Paul School (Littoral School Board)**. By 2009-2010, Explo will be part of the course offering of all Quebec's secondary schools.

Initial reaction to the field test was very positive on the part of the participating students, teachers and principals. Watch for the full report at http://www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/career_dev/explo later this year.

Need more copies of the GOAL Post?

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Releasing your inner Superman

Two U.S. educators developed a classroom unit based on personal powers to engage elementary students in the career development process.

Reflecting on the popularity of Superman, Batman and other fictional heroes made North Carolina-based educators Kelsey Augst and Patrick Akos realize that “everyone has special powers that allow them to accomplish tasks...artists have creative powers, construction workers have building powers and counsellors have people powers.”

This insight led them to develop a four-part, strengths-based career development unit that encourages elementary students to identify their personal powers. The unit goes on to link academic areas with various occupations, and it shows how factors such as gender or race can influence

how people use their powers in their career choices. In the culminating session, students present an occupation of their choice to the class and explain how they could use their personal powers in this career.

A full description of the unit appears in the article “With All Your Power, What Will You Do? A Strengths-Based Career Unit for Elementary Students,” published in June 2008 in the *National Career Development Association's Career Convergence* web magazine (www.ncda.org). Access the archives by clicking on “See all articles” under the K-12 heading.

Who's who in the GOAL Network?

They work within their boards and organizations to promote the guidance-oriented approach to learning. Each issue of the *GOAL Post* will feature different members of the network.



Malcolm MacPhee
Eastern Shores School Board
POP/GOAL Consultant

“GOAL contributes to self-discovery.”

For the first nine years of his career with the ESSB, Malcolm coordinated adult education services for the North Shore region. When his board was looking for a GOAL representative, he realized he was already practising this philosophy of education. “Adult education has always relied on using various methods so that adult learners can use real-life experiences to help them discover themselves,” he says.

Now in his fourth year in the youth sector, he believes more than ever that students can deeply benefit from the self-knowledge that GOAL fosters. “Relating their learning processes to real-life situations helps them make the right decisions about their futures. Our teachers constantly use this method without actually realizing it.

“It’s great working with such a wonderful provincial committee. Even though I have to travel many times a year away from my family and work, I feel that these types of teaching methods are needed in the world we live in.”



Normand Touchette
New Frontiers School Board
Academic & Vocational Information
Counsellor

“GOAL is indeed the key to student success and lifelong learning.”

Normand began his career as a community worker with men on parole and young offenders. He says, “That experience was a good base and it led me to believe in, and appreciate, the guidance-oriented approach.” He later obtained his BSW and worked in the Department of Youth Protection and various CLSCs. He joined the NFSB in 2001 as a social aid technician. “With time, I became the GOAL coordinator where my role was to infuse this portion of the reform throughout our board.

“I believe strongly in the value of counselling young people. Using the guidance-oriented approach helps them to make sense of the vast array of information out there and to explore their capabilities and the many options open to them. It provides tools that they can apply throughout their lives to help them reach their goals and adapt to change. In my current role, GOAL continues to be one of my guiding principles in ensuring student success.”

The *GOAL Post* is also available on the GOAL website at www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/mels/goal