

**LCCJ Community Animator Report - June 15, 2017**

**Schools & Youth Centres News**

YAK – Circle Wednesdays continue when there are youth. It’s been quiet of late.

Almonte District High School (Almonte) - Peggy, Helen and I – with Peggy taking the lead – ran the final circles for this school year with a grade 7 and grade 8 class. There were two parts to each session. During the first phase with each class, Peggy and Helen conducted small circles with half the class. Then, for the balance of the session, we reconvened into a large whole class circle with the goal of giving them an opportunity to acknowledge what growth they had witnessed in themselves and others. In the case of the grade 8 class, there were set questions posed to the girls by the boys and vice versa. In both sessions, we were impressed with the greatly improved capacity of the students to participate appropriately in the large group and really listen respectfully to each other. Students who had been quiet in early large groups sessions felt more confident in responding to a question or offering an opinion.

Arklan Community Public School (Carleton Place) – Circles for the primary class concluded this week. The final session with the kindergarten class will be held on Tuesday, June 21st.

Maple Grove Public School (Lanark) – Monday circles are winding down and will conclude next week.

The Stewart Public School (Perth) – Circles have concluded for this school year. The teacher wrote to Andrew expressing her appreciation for what she and her students have learned from the circle sessions. She looks forward to working with us next school year.

*Be Strong Challenge ­*– Challenge packages were distributed to all UCDSB and CDSBEO elementary schools last week. During the last couple of weeks of the school year, we are inviting elementary students and teachers to participate in the ***"Pick 3" Be Strong Challenge***. The idea of this is to encourage people to think about and practice ways of being that are not only embedded in circle practice, but are conducive to the development of healthy relationships and caring, safe and inclusive communities. Classes have been invited to formally register with us and share through pictures, videos and email their experience with the challenge.

A copy of *10 Ways to Live Restoratively* can be found at the end of this report. You can also follow the Be Strong tab on the LCCJ website for more details.

**Presentations & Training**

UCDSB Summer Institute for Teachers, August 22 & 23, 2017. (The workshop is offered in the UCDSB Summer Institute Catalogue and will proceed if there is sufficient interest. ) Al Howard and Andrew have submitted a proposal for two one-day workshops – one for elementary teachers and one for secondary teachers. The workshop description in part reads: *This dynamic workshop provides the basics for understanding and using Restorative Practice in school settings. Hands-on, fast paced and highly interactive, these one-day sessions are founded on the belief that an effective learning environment is one where students feel safe in taking risks, where they experience and grow from their failures and where everyone in the space learns with and from each other.*

**Numbers of Student Engagements**– when all levels of student engagement are factored in to date, numbers total 7700 with more to count this month. Of those, approximately 2400 represent high level, mostly weekly engagements.