

***Helping build inclusive, caring and safe communities***

**LCCJ Community Animator Report - October 20, 2017**

**Submitted by** Andrew Lynch, Community Animator

**Schools & Youth Centres News**

Lanark Highlands Youth Centre – Laurie Clarke has begun conducting circles.

Smiths Falls – Al Howard, Taylor McKenna are meeting with Bridget Manahan, the program director to finalize a schedule for weekly restorative practices activities with the youth attending the program. These activities are tentatively scheduled for Tuesdays.

Almonte District High School (Almonte) – Helen Rochon, Peggy Land and I have been conducting weekly circles on Thursdays with three classes – grades 8, 9 and 11. The teachers are engaged and keen to develop their own capacity to integrate restorative practices into their teaching.

We will be conducting a demonstration circle and leading discussions about restorative practices with the staff during their October 27th PD day.

Arklan Community Public School (Carleton Place) – Helen Rochon has resumed weekly proactive circles with two, soon to be three classes.

Maple Grove Public School (Lanark) – Laurie Clark and Helen Mogford have resumed circles with the classes.

North Elmsley PS – I made a half hour presentation to school staff at their monthly meeting on September 25th. One teacher has begun using circles. Darlene Graham and I are meeting with the principal to discuss how she can support circle use in another classroom.

Perth & District Collegiate Institute – I have conducted introductory circles with four classes – two grade 10, a grade 7 and grade 8. I will be conducting a demonstration circle at the November 6th staff meeting.

St. John Catholic High School – I have conducted two circles with a grade 8 class and will begin weekly circles on November 8th.

The Stewart Public School (Perth) – Tracey Parker was in communication with them to establish a schedule. There will be a delay of about one month in implementing weekly circles until Tracey returns from receiving medical treatment in Kingston.

**Volunteers**

Now that interest in *Be Strong* is ramping up, we are in need of more volunteers. We will be recruiting young adult and adult volunteers over the next couple of months. Attempts to recruit volunteers from Algonquin College through the ECE program are on hold as a result of the college teachers’ strike. If you know of someone who might be interested in working with youth in a school or youth centre setting, please inform them that they can contact Andrew Lynch by email [andrew@commjustice.org](mailto:andrew@commjustice.org) or by telephone, 613-264-1558 for details.

**Numbers of Student Engagements**– when all levels of student engagement are factored in to date, numbers total more than 8300 with more to count this month. Of those, approximately 2800 represent high level, mostly weekly engagements.