



Helping build inclusive, caring and safe communities

LCCJ Community Animator Report – April 19, 2018

Submitted by Andrew Lynch, Community Animator

Schools & Youth Centres News

Almonte District High School I have begun facilitating weekly circles with a group of students who have been identified as leaders or influencers spanning grades 9 to 12. Participants have identified (incidents of) respect as something they would like to see improved at the school. In subsequent sessions, we will establish how they can influence positive culture change.

Lombardy Public School Elle and I facilitated a series of restorative healing circles with four students whose falling out was having impacts on the quality of their lives at home and school. Feedback from students, school administration and parents has been very positive. I also conducted an introductory session on restorative practices in education with school staff. Some teachers have expressed interest in incorporating restorative practice into their practice.

Youth Centres: I have held introductory training sessions with the staff of YAK, Mississippi Mills Youth Centre and WAK (We Are Kids – Smiths Falls). I am scheduled to run an introductory session at Lanark Highlands YC on April 24th.

Ongoing: I am running a series with the WAK staff to deepen their understanding of restorative practices and build their capacity to apply the principles in the course of their work with each other and the youth they serve.

Smiths Falls Shared Youth Services – I am co-chairing with Jennifer Miller, ED of Big Brothers Big Sisters a group of community partners (Town of Smiths Falls, United Way, Service/ non-profit organizations and youth) who are developing a sustainable plan for youth service delivery in Smiths Falls. We are having two sessions facilitated by Christine Peringer on April 19th and 26th that will help us formalize a plan of action for the 2018-21 period.

Numbers of Student Engagements

Our total is over 10,400 with approximately 4700 of those being high level, weekly engagements.

Volunteers & Be Strong Handbook

Once our new website is live, we will establish how the handbook or designated sections of it will be available through a website link or portal.

A training day for new volunteers was held on Friday, April 6th. As it turned out, only one volunteer could attend, but was an immensely engaged participant. Subsequently, she has visited schools and participated in circles facilitated by Helen Rochon and me.

Sadly, Darlene Graham has decided to retire from her roles as LCCJ Facilitator and Be Strong volunteer. She has been a conscientious, thoughtful and caring volunteer who we will miss.