



Helping build inclusive, caring and safe communities

LCCJ Community Animator Report – May 15, 2018

Submitted by Andrew Lynch, Community Animator

Schools & Youth Centres News

Almonte District High School The series of four facilitated circles with a group of students from grades 9 to 12 has concluded. Throughout, as they explored in circles and breakout activities, a consistent theme emerged. Issues of concern that they identified involved respect in relationships between student peers and between students and staff members. School administration and relevant staff are considering next steps to take.

Lombardy Public School During the first week of May, we facilitated introductory learning circles with nine kindergarten to grade 8 classes. These were very well received by teachers and students, with most teachers electing to be observers so that they could more easily note the engagement level and participation of students.

Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute We were approached by an art teacher who was curious about how sharing circles could be used as a vehicle for exploring and eliciting student voice in artistic expression. We held our introductory circle with a grade 9 class on May 9th and are making plans with the teacher to follow up, possibly with a series of small group circles.

Youth Centres: Youth centre staff, with the exception of CORE in Carleton Place, have participated in an introduction to restorative practices session. Our scheduled activities vary from centre to centre. Staff of the Smiths Falls Youth program have elected to continue with a series of learning sessions.

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. Our visioning/planning sessions facilitated by Christine Peringer in April have led to the creation of a draft plan which we will refine on May 24th.

Numbers of Student Engagements

Our total is over 10,800 with approximately 5000 of those being high level, weekly engagements.

Volunteers

Our newest volunteer, Barb Secker has been enthusiastically observing and participating in circles at Arklan Community Public School, Almonte District High School and Smiths Falls District Collegiate institute. We expect to have at least one more new volunteer trained by the end of the month.