

Monthly Report: VIVA Project

Meetings in January:

Mr. McRae (VP) and Shelley Riddell (P) at CPHS to discuss VIVA Program

Meeting with Mr. McRae to clarify scope of program

Meeting with Mrs. Townend (teacher) at CPHS

Meeting with Mr. Swarbrick at SFDCI

Training:

December 4, 2018 and December 11, 2018 sessions at CORE Youth Centre in Carleton Place went very well. These segments were run in the afternoons from 3 to 7 pm. The youth who attended were from both Notre Dame High school and Carleton Place High School. The Youth were engaged and motivated. The Appreciative Inquiry segments of both nights were very interesting, and the youth had compelling reasons for wanting to volunteer, including improving their community, learning new skills and trying something new. There were several youth who were in grades 7 thru 9 who were not motivated to volunteer to graduate, but because they were passionate about helping others and building a strong community.

December 19, 2018 was Staff Training day at Parrot Partners. The staff are very eager to have youth volunteers from this program join their volunteer pool. This organization requires 7-10 volunteers a day to keep all their various programs going. I attended a volunteer orientation with those youth I have placed at Parrot Partners on January 12, 2019 from 10 am to Noon to ensure that the youth were comfortable and to provide transportation. It was a very successful morning.

All Youth have received their Certificates of Achievement for the VIVA Program

Upcoming Training:

I have been meeting with the Principal and Vice Principal at CPHS and we are planning two training sessions for early February after the second semester begins. I also have been discussing a second training day at SFDCI for early February.

Concerns:

I have been unable to train students in Perth to provide volunteers to The Table. There are many volunteer positions available there, but I have no volunteers to place. It has been more challenging than anticipated to access students in the schools to provide the VIVA Training Program. I expected it to be an easy sell, as guidance offices are often scrambling to support students to find volunteer hours so that they may graduate. However, the policies and procedures that are in place schools have made it very challenging to gain access to students and provide this training.