

CONNECTIONS™ Multicultural, Environmental Leadership Program SEEDS Foundation & Connections Education Society (CES)

Feedback and Comments

Student Samples:

“You may change the attitudes of only a few but they can affect others and those 1, or 2 or 3 can affect the whole school”

“I loved all of the presenters and found them so valuable. The most important thing that I gained from CONNECTIONS was respect, true respect for other people. Before I definitely was not racist or anything, but I was kind of judgmental... Now I’ve realized that, and I see everyone on a completely equal level.”



“Learned that so many have been affected by discrimination and stereotyping”

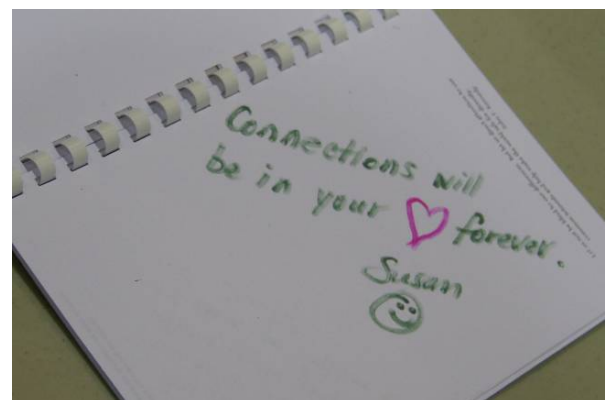
“The town hall meeting really just opened my eyes to the fact that even though we are young, us youth can make a difference and we are still capable of sharing our ideas and helping people become aware of issues. “

“I enjoyed learning about different cultures and making connections that I would/ could not make before I learned about this program. I.e. Habitat in the Balance made connections relating to the environment and people and their cultures. I really loved the leadership part of this course as we all in our groups were leaders during the whole activity.”

“Realized from interviews, you are not the only one going through bullying or discrimination”

“I was able to talk to people more naturally; I really got to know people both at camp and now at the school I talk to more people.”

“I got to learn a lot about myself and other people and their cultures that I wouldn’t have otherwise gotten the chance to do. My family group leader was amazing. I



feel inspired to go back to Calgary and enforce on myself the new values I have to and to change my school.”

Teacher Samples:

“Thank you for this opportunity. I know my students will benefit now and in the future. I can’t wait to ‘grow’ the program at our school. Unforgettable. Life changing. Thanks Cenovus, SEEDS, Connections, Kiwanis, George, Ann and Natalie.”

“The purpose was clear and the outcomes were met not only in terms of the courses but in the hearts and minds of us all. Expand the reach of this extraordinary gift!”

“Great group. Habitat is always amazing to see the family group come together collaboratively.”

Student Project Samples

The following are three examples of what CONNECTIONS students do for final projects and the impact that these have on other students and the community.

1. Anti-Bullying Week – three of the students at Bonnyville Outreach School decided to work for one hour each day for a week with the local Boys and Girls Club. They created activities to teach about issues of bullying. Personal journals and sharing circles showed students were becoming more aware of causes and effects of bullying. See their report in Appendix A.

2. Building Bridges – in November 2011, a group of five students from Cold Lake High School put together a “Building Bridges” Program that was presented to Grade 3 students at Cold Lake Elementary (about 100 students and teachers saw the presentation). In Appendix B, there is a description of the program, written by the students. Building Bridges was so successful that the group of CONNECTIONS students presented it again to 75 Grade 3 students in October 2012 (see article from the Cold Lake Sun in Appendix B). They also presented their program to the nine Trustees of the Northern Lights School Division in December 2012.

3. Lord Beaverbrook Diversity Video (Gangnam Style) – the students at Lord Beaverbrook created this video about diversity and equality, and then shared it with all 2,000 students at the school. The objective was to create greater community in the school, both by involving individuals from diverse groups within the school and by sharing it with all students at assemblies. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QPNm--3apw>

Appendix A – Anti-Bullying Week:

Boys and Girls Club of Bonnyville Anti-Bullying Week

Dates: December 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th after school

Location: Bonnyville Boys & Girls Club

Audience: Youth aged 9-12 (approximately 15 per day)

Group Members: Hannah Chowace, Nathaniel Dion, Breanne Savage



Activities:

- Toothpaste Race
 - Kids try to put toothpaste in a straight line on a piece of tape and then we asked them to put it back in the tube – to which they were unable to do
 - Goal was to get the children to understand how they cannot take back things they have said to others.
- Expression Art
 - Kids painted pictures of the way they felt after assigning different feelings to different colours they painted with.
 - Goal was to help kids express their feelings.
- Paper Chain Reaction
 - Kids made a paper chain over the course of the days we presented. They would take a white paper to symbolize that they had bullied that day or a coloured piece of paper if they had not bullied. At the end we linked all the kids together.
 - The goal was to show everyone is connected whether or not you bully.
- Bullying Myths
 - We presented a series of statements to the kids and asked them to identify them as a myth or a fact around bullying.
 - The goal was to address myths of bullying.
- Telephone
 - We played a game of telephone.
 - The goal was showing how rumours can be spread and evolve.
- Sharing circle
 - We had a sharing circle with the kids where they discussed a time they were bullied and how it made them feel.



Appendix B – Building Bridges:

Building Bridges Description

“All Connections students at CLHS joined up together to complete our final project. On Monday November 21, 2011 we all went to Cold Lake Elementary School and spent an entire day hosting an event called Building Bridges. This event had an audience of almost 100 people including, adults and students. The event was primarily focused to work with grade 3 students. This event took many hours and days of careful planning as a group, and with Teachers and the Principal at CLES. Our event was a huge success and we hope to do something along the lines again in the future with new students. The entire day was carefully planned to allow the most learning for the students, while at the same time still be entertaining, understandable and fun. During the morning we were able to have two presenters come in from the Aboriginal and Islamic cultures. The presenters said they both enjoyed themselves and had fun teaching the students and other adults about their cultures and beliefs. We had an amazing Potluck lunch provided by all the grade 3 students. The lunch was very diverse and had a lot of food to choose from. Students complained they wished they had a bigger belly so they could eat more food and try even more items. Parent volunteers who helped out during lunch were very impressed with how well everything was going and that only 5 hosted the entire event grade 10 students without even a the Connection teachers help. During the afternoon we were able to give lessons to the students about diversity and why we don't use mean words. We reflected about what we had learnt in the morning. We also learnt about differences around the world. CLES is run by its principle using moral intelligence as tier key. We were able to connect their moral intelligent beliefs and sing songs they already knew about things like respect. We had many fun moments especially when we were up and moving just as we were around the campfire at camp. We taught them many little dances like the penguin and so many more. We were able to do so many things in one day and had a lot of fun. We collected sponsors from ESSO, **RBC**, Flint, & Browns and pay for items that were needed for the lunch but also pay for two iPod's as door prizes that lucky students won. Every Grade 3 student and staff member received a Building Bridges t-shirt. We were so happy with everything we were able to do within a month of returning from camp. We enjoyed our final project a lot and hope to do something like it again in the future even on our own. If we wouldn't have kept teamwork as our main value we wouldn't have been able to do such a great project. We were able to work together and ensure everything aspect was planned for the day and that the students would have fun and learn! Our group worked well together and everyone did their share of the project. “

Day focuses on diversity

<http://www.coldlakesun.com/2012/10/09/day-focuses-on-diversity>

By Theresa Seraphim, Cold Lake Sun

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 2:54:24 MDT PM

A one-day seminar for Cold Lake Elementary School (CLES) Grade 3 students was a success, according to organizers and the school's principal.

Five Cold Lake High School students presented an Oct. 4 workshop on diversity for the younger set, called Building Bridges.

The day included various activities such as exercises in an anti-bully workbook.

“It came about through Connections,” explained Bailey Coats.

He and the other organizers went to Calgary last year for Connections, “an anti-racism and multicultural seminar,” said Coats.

The group had to do a final project, and after asking CLES principal Kathy McKale, did a similar seminar at the school in November 2011.

“We really enjoyed it and we did it again this year,” said Coats.

One change for this year is the group is now a not-for-profit organization.

The idea behind the seminar, said co-organizer Maddison Schumacher, is to help students “learn to make friends with people who are different.”

“We look at each others' similarities, not differences,” added Coats.

McKale said the day fit in very well with the school's overall philosophy, and it was a joy to have the high school students return.

“This is enabling what we're trying to teach,” which is moral intelligence, said McKale.

She said this is done through songs, energizing activities, and group activities around themes such as respect and the Golden Rule.

“We're very proud of our high school students and we're very proud of our students ... It's a great partnership enhancing what we're doing at this school.”

McKale said the school aims to create “caring global citizens”, and there are initiatives throughout the year in which students get involved, such as the Terry Fox Run, Operation Christmas Child and, most recently, the cause of Curtis Hargrove, who paid a

surprise visit to the school.

McKale said a significant part of the day occurred at the end, when the school's other students joined the Grade 3's. She said the information and enthusiasm had been transferred from the high schoolers to the workshop participants, and "the Grade 3's (transferred) it to the whole school."



Cold Lake Elementary School students get involved in a Building Bridges activity led by Cold Lake High School students on Oct. 4, 2013.