

ABOVE AND BEYOND

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ADVISORS AND STUDENT LEADERS ACROSS CANADA

Vol. 1 No. 1

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITY ADVISORS

Fall/ Winter 1997



Conference Info

14th CSLC, Kamloops, BC

See the back page of this newsletter for more information.

CASAA Advisor Workshops

Held in Toronto:

Date: April 17 — 19, 1998

Contact: John Thompson
Preston High School
phone: 519-653-2367
fax: 519-653-0182

Cost: \$150

Held in Calgary:

Date: April 24 — 26, 1998

Contact: Gane Olsen
Harry Ainlay High School
phone: 403-434-8451
fax: 403-438-1465

Cost: \$150

What is an advisor workshop?

This is a professional development activity for student activity advisors. Sessions begin on the Friday evening with a keynote presenter. Advisors pay for their accommodation and food on top of the conference cost. Sessions continue all day Saturday and conclude Sunday at noon. Advisors pick sessions and speakers which suit their interests and needs, but the most important benefit comes from the sharing of ideas and activities amongst the assembled individuals.

To the Advisor

Message from the President of CASAA

A poster in my office reads, "The classroom gives you knowledge — STUDENT ACTIVITIES BUILD CHARACTER!" Many of us believe that our role as activity advisors is both to educate student leaders by giving them the knowledge required to serve effectively and help them develop their personal skills of good citizenship. From my interactions with many of you across this great nation of ours, I know that the student leaders of Canada are in good hands!

As we approach a new millennium, there will be greater demands placed upon us to complement the work of the family in developing qualities of character in the young adults of schools. We see the effect of our efforts with the student leaders, but what of the rest of the student body? It is a tremendous undertaking to work with students who are expected to effect positive changes in their peers. I commend each of you for your sincere desire to be a catalyst within your schools for student leadership.

It is my goal to bring CASAA out of its relative obscurity within the schools of our nation. To begin to accomplish this will require a united effort by all student activity advisors. We will need to educate our school administrators, our school boards, our elected officials, and our communities. They need to know about the tremendous developmental process for the youth of Canada that exists within the schools. They need to understand the rigors of working with students and bringing out the best within their personalities. They need to care enough about the process to continue to invest in an educational system that values human growth as a means to achieve excellence. Let us join together to increase the profile of our national organization by showcasing what we do!

I look forward to CSLC '98 in Kamloops where we can continue to hold the torch high and proclaim the message of student leadership in *One Nation [with] One Dream*.

Gane Olsen

CASAA

The CASAA Listserv

Advisors and students participate on the mailing list available through the CASAA internet site. If you have internet access, surf to the CASAA site at:

<http://www.sentex.net/~cassaa> and follow directions. The following was posted on the mailing list.

For senior advanced leadership class students Peter F. Drucker's books are substantial reading for projects and presentations.

This is a leadership test that comes from Drucker's estimation of leadership qualities:

1. Leaders start projects by asking "What has to be done?" instead of "What do I need?"
2. Leaders next ask "What do I have to do to make a real contribution?"
3. Leaders continually ask "What are my organization's purposes and objectives?"
4. Leaders are not threatened by others who have strengths they lack.

If you're looking for Drucker's books, I'd recommend *The Effective Executive* to start with. For a look at what he predicts as a result of the Information Age and the end of the Cold War, read *Post-Capitalist Society*.

Drucker's books are challenging reading for secondary students, but they will provide some very substantial leadership and management theory for students to consider in the more advanced leadership classes.

New Resources

The following activity is taken from a new resource book available through CASAA. It is from *Activities that Teach* by Tom Jackson and all the activities are set up in the manner that you see below.

Back Art

Topic Area: Communication

Concept: Saying what you mean and hearing what is said are problems that we have in any communication between two people. These problems escalate when you have more than two people involved.

Method: Classroom Activity

Time Frame: 15 to 20 minutes plus discussion time.

Materials Needed:

- a pencil, magic marker or crayon for each group of five to six people.
- five or six blank pieces of paper for each group

Activity:

Divide into groups of five or six people. Each group sits in single file facing the front of the room. The last person in each line is shown a simple picture to draw at the same time.

At the starting command, the last person uses their finger to draw the picture they saw on the back of the student in front of them. There is no second try and once the picture is finished, they tap the shoulder of the person ahead of them to send the message. The teams do not question what is being drawn on their backs and are not allowed to look at what other teams are drawing. This process continues until the first person in line. This person then draws the picture on the paper before them.

After all of the teams have finished, each picture should be held up for the team and the class to see how they did. The originals are held up for comparison. The pictures are judged and the teams whose picture closely resembles the original receives a point. Positions are changed so that each member of a team has an opportunity to be in all of the positions.

Discussion Ideas:

- What did you see happening during this activity?
- How did you feel when you were the person who started the drawing?
- How did you feel when you were in the middle of the line?
- What were some of the ways that the pictures/story got changed?
- What do people do when the message to be sent is complicated?
- What would have made this activity easier to accomplish?
- Whose job is it to be sure that information gets passed along correctly? The person doing the talking or the person doing the listening? Why?

Event Planning

Last summer my family and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Stowe, Vermont. The setting was beautiful in the mountain valley, and over twenty colourful balloons were scheduled to launch on this beautiful July evening. The festive event had drawn a large crowd; children and adults alike were enthralled by the colours and spectacle that filled the air.

The balloon liftoffs were scheduled for different times because there were never more than two balloons in the vicinity at any one time. The eyes of the crowd were always attracted to the newest fully inflated balloon and “oohs” and “aaahs” followed each ascent into the clear and calm evening air. After a while, many hot air balloons were visible in the distance but very few people took notice of them and it was always the next launch that received the most attention. After the last balloon was in the air, our family left, yet I did not get a chance to tell the balloonists what a special evening they had created for all of us.

The audience was appreciative of the launching of each unique balloon, but totally unaware of the work involved to prepare, launch, and retrieve a hot air balloon. The crowd rarely watched the teamwork and preparations necessary to inflate the huge air bag and were only attracted by the balloon as it stood upright and began to ascend. Once it drifted from view, they needed a new spectacle to occupy their attention. They did not watch the chase crew for each balloon drive away, nor would they be watching the crew pack up and clean up after the landing. Finally, it was the work of many people that allowed the balloon pilot and the one or two passengers to enjoy their brief moment in the appreciative eye of the crowd gathered below.

This festival is similar to the events and activities that we run through student council at school. There is a lot of necessary preparation and teamwork demanded prior to getting an event off the ground. This prep work is not glamorous nor is it appreciated. The events themselves are brief and a few individuals get to share the stage for a short moment, but as they drift away in time your school’s audience is looking for the next great event. Every event also needs a ground crew who then have to go recover the balloon, clean up, and pack up. In order to have another successful launch the balloon must be packed away properly and this important work is done away from the applause of the crowd.

In your event planning, remember that events have well-prepared launches, trouble-free flights, and smooth landings. Learn when to launch an event and when the weather is not appropriate or your crew is not in place. Don’t put too many events in the air at one time, as your audience can only absorb so much. Finally, the complete cycle of a successful launch and recovery is not always appreciated by your audience, but the teamwork and organization is worth it. Happy launches and landings!

Dave Conlon

Balloon Activity

This activity requires co-operation and planning. A group is required to create a hot air balloon complete with passenger, present their creation to the assembled teams and have their balloon complete a designated course at the mercy of the prevailing winds.

Equipment Required:

- Balloon of a 4' diameter per group
- Tank of helium with gauge
- Small basket for each group
- Light string for safety tethers
- Balloon net that encompasses the balloon and ties to the basket
- Large open field

This activity works best in the early morning or after 5:00 pm as the prevailing winds must be light.

Each group is given a balloon, basket, balloon net, and a portion of the helium tank as defined by the pressure on the gauge. The group fills their balloon with the appropriate amount of helium, secures the opening and then creates a hot air balloon with a balloonist in the basket. The right ballast for the balloon must be found, so that it will float above ground without taking off. Each balloon is allowed a safety tether on their balloon of 10’.

A start and finish line are defined according to the prevailing winds. Balloons are launched at the same time and the groups must release the safety tethers. A balloon’s flight is terminated after the start line if it touches the ground or the safety tether is touched by a member of the group. The group is not allowed to affect the flight or course of their balloon or that of any other group. The balloon that crosses the finish line first or the one with the longest flight is the winner of the race.

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What is CASAA?

Mission and Goals

The mission is to promote and develop student leadership and activities within Canadian high schools. Goals of the Association include:

- to facilitate the professional growth of Student Activity Advisors by helping to equip them with the resources, ideas, and support to become effective trainers of student leaders
- to encourage across Canada the sharing and exchange of ideas pertaining to student activities
- to support the organization and growth of provincial associations of Student Activity Advisors
- to promote actively the concept of student leadership

Governing Structure of the Association

The Association is run by a Board of Directors which consists of a four-member Executive, a director from each province and territory of Canada, a director-at-large to represent the francophone community, an Executive Director and a publication and communication representative. The Board of directors holds two meetings a year, once during the annual Canadian Student Leadership Conference (CSLC) and during the spring.

History

In 1983, the students and staff of the Yorkton Regional High School, Saskatchewan, were invited to host the annual provincial leadership conference of 1985. A year later, the Premier of Saskatchewan, The Hon. Grant Devine, challenged the Yorkton students to turn the 1985 provincial conference into a national conference. This would be one of Saskatchewan's contributions to the 1985 International Year of the Youth project. The challenge was accepted by the students and staff of Yorkton Regional High School and the 1985 conference was held in Yorkton. Over eight hundred students and student advisors attended this conference.

The Canadian Association of Student Activity Advisors has been addressing the leadership needs of high school students and student council advisors since 1985. The advisors at the Yorkton conference voted unanimously to support the idea of an annual leadership conference across the nation. Provinces and Northwest Territory/Yukon would be invited to host these conferences. Through the interest, effort, and commitment of these advisors, the Canadian Association of Student Government Advisors was born.

The second conference was hosted by Salisbury Composite High School, Sherwood Park, Alberta in August 1986. The advisors worked on developing a constitution and elected the first executive of the Association. There has been continued interest, support and growth over the years.

In 1990, at the Burnaby Conference, the name of the organization was changed to the Canadian Association of Student Activity Advisors to reflect most accurately the membership of the organization. Not all members are student council advisors; on the contrary, many are responsible for overseeing other student activities in their schools.

In the first decade, the association saw the creation of provincial student leadership organizations with similar goals and objectives as that of the national organization. In most provinces and in The Yukon and The Northwest Territories, annual student leadership conferences are held.

In recent years, we have also witnessed the number of schools developing and offering leadership courses (credit and non-credit) to high school students. These courses have helped individual participants to become more knowledgeable and stronger in providing leadership in their respective schools. Both the national and provincial organizations have helped, and continue to help, to equip individual student leaders with the necessary tools to enable them to be effective leaders.

The association also provides help for those counsellors who are seeking assistance, ideas, and the like so that they can become more effective in their responsibilities. One of the programs that has been developed in some provinces is the weekend "fly-in" conferences for advisors. This brings together counsellors from across the province to come together for a weekend to share and learn about student leadership.

More educators are beginning to realize the importance of co-curricular activities in their schools. Good co-curricular activities in a school make for a happier, more productive, more caring, more respectful student body. The Association continues to grow in numbers and provides a very valuable resource to students and staff across the nation.

The Canadian Association of Student Activity Advisors hosted the Thirteenth Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Montreal, Quebec this past fall. The fourteenth CSLC will be held in Kamloops, British Columbia in the fall of 1998. The conferences are planned until the year 2000 with future sites being Welland, Ontario (1999), and Winnipeg (2000).

The CASAA website is a new addition to our attempts to communicate and share resources with advisors across Canada. This site contains previews of CASAA resources, a question and answer forum, a share shop for activities and many other ways to communicate with students and advisors from across the globe.

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Share Shop

The CASAA website asks for submissions from advisors to share with the internet audience. Here are some of the recent offerings:

Great Gross Gunk

Some activities need the gross gucky stuff, but the problem is what to do with that kiddie pool full of jello and oatmeal after you've had your fun. A good alternative is peat moss. Just add water and you have instant mud! It's cheap and enviro-friendly. The stuff looks gross and formidable, but the beauty of it is that you can get dirty and then simply spread it around on the lawn after you're done. (Don't spread it around on a gym floor after you're done as there is little need for that kind of thing) We discovered that marshmallows can survive in a peat moss soup and they don't taste that bad either!

Pre-Prom Activity

The day before prom a group of students dressed up in our prom attire and went to an adult day-care to bring happiness to the elderly and mentally disabled. We brought our prom posters and balloons and we danced with the ones that could dance. They told us stories of their proms and not only did it make us feel good to do something for the community, but it was very interesting to hear how proms have changed over the years. It was a great success and we got a lot of media coverage.

Advertising

Post activity memos and reminders for your teachers to read beside the photocopier. Most teachers have to visit this spot and they can work and read at the same time.

Getting People Involved

1. You have to decide whether you want them to be there as an audience or be a participant. This is important because the event must be chosen that will suit your chosen audience and participants. Not everyone will wear boxer shorts on their head but many people will turn up to watch the principal do it.
2. Be aware of the reach of the advertising you are using. The best morning PA announcements just announce. Excellent posters will only post your message. Stopping someone in the hallway and inviting them to come to the dance is the most powerful advertising that you can use — it is also the most labour intensive but it will generate your best results.
3. Be aware of the power of NOBODY and EVERYBODY. Nobody wants to go to an event that NOBODY is going to. In your one-on-one promotions, let the person know that EVERYBODY is going to be there.
4. Announce your successes. After a great event, tell people about it. Keep the buzz alive and use it to kick start the promotion of your next event. You don't have to say that 86 people had a great time at your casino night last night — just say that lots of people participated and everyone had an awesome time. Students want to be associated with winners — the only exceptions to this are Leaf fans but they are in a class of their own.
5. There is no magic dust that guarantees that your event will be fantastic. It is the people who organize it and the individuals who participate who make any event successful. Look at the Toronto Raptors. In the win/loss column they had a horrible season last year, but the marketers managed to convince the fans that they could have an awesome time just by being there, because EVERYBODY was there.

Leadership Thought

One of the things about attending conferences is that you learn information by discussing and sharing with other people outside of the sessions on the program. Kevin O'Reilly from Forest Heights in Kitchener, Ontario, shared this with advisors.

Leadership thought: You are who you attract.

It takes some time, but the statement does tend to provoke thought and discussion.

Resource Hot Hits

Building Leaders for Life (\$65 US) from NASSP-DSA

The National Association of Secondary School Principals - Dept. of Student Activities now has one of the best books for running a leadership class. It contains lesson plans for every aspect of the leadership curriculum. This is an invaluable resource for all advisors.

National Leadership Camp Curriculum Guide (\$18 US) NASSP

The resource book used at the summer camps organized by NASSP. It provides excellent background for leadership and student activity programs at all levels.

A is for Ask — (\$25) from Canadian School Boards Association

A basic primer for those embarking on fundraising. Good fundraising ideas suited for the rookie advisor.

The Post-Secondary Leadership Development Guide (\$30) CIRA

Suitable for senior leadership classes. Good lesson plans and activities from the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association.

Great Games to Play with Groups (\$11 US) from Frank Schaffer Pub.

Seventy games from around the world for groups as small as two or as large as forty.

The Good School (\$20) from OSSTF

Written by Alan King from a secondary school perspective, this book describes what constitutes a good school. It provides an excellent argument for a well-defined activity program contributing to the good school.

Student Activities The Third Curriculum II (\$9 US) NASSP-DSA

Documentation of the importance of student activities at the secondary level. Provides studies that show the link between participation and student achievement.

Peer Helpers PLUS (\$20) from Pembroke Publishers

A valuable resource for peer helping programs. Skills and activities are outlined to assist student peer helpers within your school. Good ideas on how this program can compliment the existing programs within your school.

Choose to Lead (\$100 US) video series from Mark Scharenbroich

This video training series features Mark Sharenbroich in two 35 minute videotapes. These videos give student leaders the inspiration, framework and practical ideas to make a difference in their schools.

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Quotes

Reality is something you rise above.

Liza Minelli

Ride the horse in the direction that it's going.

Werner Erhard

The other day I got out my can-opener and was opening a can of worms when I thought, "What am I doing?"

Jack Handey

The reason lightening doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time.

Willie Tyler

If the people don't want to come out to the park, nobody's gonna stop them.

Yogi Berra

If you are losing a tug-of-war with a tiger, give him the rope before he gets to your arm. You can always buy a new rope.

Max Gunther

This life is a test; it is only a test. If it were real life you would receive instructions on where to go and what to do.

Anonymous

Learn from the mistakes of others. Life is too short to make them all yourself.

Sam Levenson

A great source for quotes can be found on the internet at:

pw1.netcom.com/~spritex/quotes

It is a superb database of quotations compiled by Grant M. Bright. The database is searchable by topic, author, category and word. A good source of inspirational and thought provoking quotations.

Conference Information

CSLC 1998

Kamloops will host the 14th Canadian Student Leadership Conference

Date: Sept. 29 — Oct. 3

Cost: \$175 per delegate

The mission of the conference is to educate successful, competent secondary students in areas of leadership such as goal setting, motivation, communication, organization and responsibility. Guest speakers include Andy and Stu, Mark Scharenbroich, Rick Hansen, Linda Schaumeleffel, and William Gordon, "The Bionic Turkey". Student activity sessions will focus on team building, community service, communication, and active participation. Recognition of the multi-cultural diversity and proud heritage of Canada will be a feature on the closing Saturday.

The pre-conference tour begins in Vancouver on Saturday, September 26 where one highlight will be a visit to Science World. On Sunday, you'll journey to Vancouver Island by ferry to see Victoria, the province's capital, its museums, and, of course, Butchart Gardens. Monday's destination is the world famous ski resort, Whistler-Blackcomb, and on Tuesday, it's on to Kamloops by train through some breathtaking scenery. Contact the Kamloops CSLC for more information and cost.

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Information about the CSLC:

Students are billeted in homes for the conference (not for the pre-conference). The advisors stay in hotel accommodations for the duration of the conference. Meals and transportation are covered during the conference for advisors and students.

Each school is allowed two student delegates that must be accompanied by an advisor. Advisors and delegates follow a different leadership programs. This is designed to be a Professional Development program for the advisor as well as a learning experience for the students.

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You have received a copy of this newsletter because you may have purchased materials from CASAA or attended a leadership conference. Please pass this information on to other advisors who would benefit.

CASAA
www.sentex.net/~casaa