

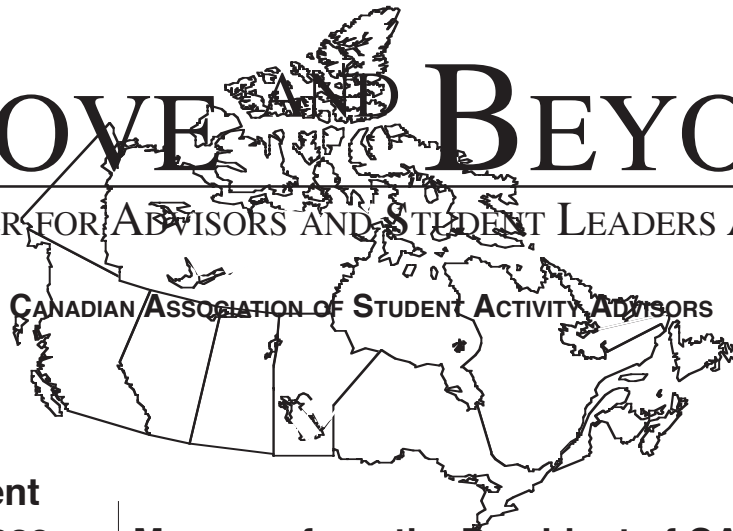
ABOVE AND BEYOND

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ADVISORS AND STUDENT LEADERS ACROSS CANADA

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Winter 2000

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT ACTIVITY ADVISORS



16th Canadian Student Leadership Conference

The theme of the CSLC 2000 is *Yesterday, today, tomorrow . . . forever*. Moving forward into the next century gives us an opportunity to look back, to analyze where we stand today, and to dream about tomorrow. To achieve this goal, the conference will have past, present, and future theme days. Students will be working on community service projects as well as having the opportunity to job shadow a career prospect. Delegates will participate in workshops, will go on guided tours and will listen to motivational speakers.

Students and advisors will gain new friendships and experiences that will last a lifetime. CSLC 2000 welcomes you to join us in Manitoba in the new millennium.

Dates:

Preconference: Sept. 18 – 19

Conference: Sept. 20 – 24

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Message from the President of CASAA

As the sun sinks on one millennium, there is no night for the light of a new millennium dawns. As we chart our course over a new horizon, the sails of our ships fill with the winds of excitement and anxiety. We are enthused over what we cannot fully see; yet we languish in what remains unresolved. The celebrations of past accomplishments will fade all too quickly and be replaced by the starkness of the present — poverty, apathy, violence, and a litany of other social problems plague our students. Will these rob us of our energy and dim our vision? Is the future doomed to repeat the past? That depends on us!

Now is the time for new visionaries to step forward and answer the call for a new generation of leaders. There have been many, who in times past, dared to make a difference. "I have a dream!" declared Dr. Martin Luther King — and then he went to work to make it a reality. He shared a common trait with those great leaders of the past, a trait we still need. Perhaps noted strategist, Joel Barker, best describes this trait: "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."

Student activity advisors and other school administrators are expected to see the invisible and do the impossible on a regular basis ... and we can as we dream BIG (the sky is not the limit) and plan SMALL (every detail is essential). Seeing people as they will become is the trademark of a visionary and the product of experience and a network. Newsletters, advisor workshops, conferences, even e-mail have all contributed to the world wide web of leadership. While the dreaming may come quite naturally to some, it constantly evades others. The details of planning may be an effortless exercise for some, while others just cannot do it. No one is an island; no one toils in isolation; we all need each another; we all need to build one another.

As the dawn of a new millennium breaks forth over the horizon, may we all see clearly the tremendous opportunities to network. We are blazing new trails in unfamiliar territory to us. Let us learn from each other and remember the example of the shepherd — One who knows his sheep and is known of them; One who feeds and protects each sheep as if it was the only one; One who has learned his time-honoured trade from another; One who leads from the front and has a clear vision of what is ahead. Let us link together and celebrate the collective wisdom we possess. We can help solve each of the problems that we face in the present. We can have a positive impact on the leaders of tomorrow!

Gane Olsen

CASAA

Bottle Lottery

It's fundraising in a bottle! Participants are asked to donate bottles for your fundraiser. They can be filled with anything—bath beads, coffee beans, motor oil, pasta, jam, gummi bears, beanie babies, dog kibbles, salsa, bubble gum, salad dressing, anything—as long as it's in a bottle or a jar! Each donated bottle is then assigned a number with a corresponding ticket that is placed in a box. Charge \$2 per ticket. When someone plays, they reach into the box, pull a number, and the corresponding bottle is theirs. The fun starts when people start to trade amongst themselves trying to get a better bottle.

Following the Path?

A new college was built and the major roads and walkways were put in as the buildings were finished. However, the pathways that normally occur between buildings were not installed. The grass was planted and the staff and students who attended the college gradually wore the pathways into the grass surrounding the buildings. The cement pathways were then put in where the users of the college had made them.

How many events do you run at your school follow the pathways that students prefer to travel? How many times do you as the architect of an event feel frustration that people are not walking in the door that you created? Try to judge your events by what the students want and not what student council members think that they need. Remember, people will vote with their feet. Happy pathways!

The Power of Passion

The author and poet Samuel Ullman wrote that “age may wrinkle the face, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.” (Now there's a scary picture—just imagine the hordes of leathery, shriveled souls of all the apathetic people in the world today.) Enthusiasm is a word that come from ancient Greek, meaning “having god within.” Enthusiasm, passion, and love are key drivers in our lives. When we connect with our inner spirit we feel the most intensely alive. During these moments, our inner voice whispers, “this is the real me.”

Passion and love are affairs of the heart, not the head. Because as much as we might like to think otherwise, we aren't entirely rational creatures.

Take parenting for example. Many of us have experienced days when it seems that the decision to become a parent was irrational to the point of insanity. In fact, on those “doubt days,” it's easy to understand why some animals eat their young.

Humans use thinking and reasoning to solve problems and make plans. But it's our hearts more than our heads that move us. Most so-called “rational thinking” is merely a process of justifying actions that start with our feelings. We often make decisions that “feel right” then start looking for the “facts” to support them.

In many organizations, what's often called leadership is really management. Activities such as planning, analysis, problem solving, strategy, process improvement, goal setting and measurement are all critical. And they call for good intellectual abilities. But for all their importance, they don't add up to leadership.

Leadership is emotional. Leadership deals with feelings. Leadership is made of dreams, inspiration, excitement, desire, pride, care, passion and love. The areas of our lives where we show the strongest leadership—including our communities, families, organizations, products, services, hobbies and customers—are where we're most in love.

This excerpt has been taken from the book, "GROWING the distance" by Jim Clemmer. The book demonstrates that personal growth is all about developing the qualities of leadership that each of us has, regardless of our position in society or the workplace. This is an easy-to-read guide to living and growing and is now available through the CASAA resource order form.

My Want List for You as a Leader

I want you to know the power you now hold in your possession—remember that you represent your fellow students. Maintain their trust, reinforce their belief in your leadership.

I want you to realize that you do not have, nor should you have, *all* the answers. Answers will be found through cooperation, communication and concern.

I want you to understand and empathize with those in positions of authority. Not only those individuals at school, but at home, in our community, country and around the world. The pressures continually challenge their every decision. Work with them to make this world better than you now find it.

I want you to experience failure—Why? “Failures are nothing more than rehearsals for success”—but only a select few can admit failure and have the wisdom to learn from it.

I want you to listen intently to the sounds of silence and not be afraid to be alone with your thoughts. Know yourself, love yourself so you can fully know and love others.

I want you to dream dreams of this better world, a better country, a better community, a better school, a better you and follow the path you know to be right.

I want you to discover happiness, to feel joy and peace of mind.

I want you to study diligently, to read extensively, to write out your ideas and work at revising and improving constantly.

Most of all, I want you to be *aware*, to be *involved*, to be in *love*.

AWARE . . . aware of all you can give, aware of the many needs about you, aware of people.

INVOLVED . . . involved with meeting the needs that your growing awareness has made obvious.

IN LOVE . . . in love with who *you* are, with what you believe in and with what you're becoming and then to offer this love always to the people you meet.

Please share your gifts.

This was presented at Glenview Park's three-day student leadership retreat in September. It was adapted by Tim Tonner from Earl Reum's “The Rainbows of Leadership”

Instead of running a Leadership Retreat

Our school has a Student Council Lock-in at the start of every new semester because the reps change each semester. In it, we teach them *parli pro*, house rules, why we have the meetings, etc, etc. It is also the first ASB meeting of the year. After we get all our work done, we go play. That is, icebreakers, tag, watch movies, food, music, dancing, whatever floats your boat. This really helped our student council to know each other better as well as teaching them how a meeting should run.

Alexa Spielhagen
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Election Tip

I have found that junior students have the highest voter turnout during our elections. These students rarely know anything about the candidates prior to the election. Therefore, they are votes that a good campaign can influence. It's hard to change a senior's vote because they know most of the candidates or know them by reputation for good or bad. Advise your candidates to take the time to get to know the junior students and ask them what *they* want.

The juniors are the students who are going to be at the school the longest, so what candidates promise as changes during a campaign really matter to them.

Dave Conlon
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The Pareto Principle

The 80-20 Rule

An Italian economist, Victor Pareto, studied the ownership of land in Italy at the turn of the century. He discovered that more than 80 percent of all the land was owned by less than 20 percent of all the people. He studied other aspects of ownership and wealth, and he found that the same principle held true. 29 percent or less of the total population ended up with 80 percent of what was available.

What does this mean for your activities? It supports the notion that 20 percent of your group will end up doing 80 percent of the work. It also means that 20 percent of the school must lead the 80 percent who do not show the initiative or interest in making a difference. It finally demonstrates that only a small percentage of people are needed to make a positive difference once they are aware of their power.

Volunteer? NOT!

It is difficult to get people to volunteer, so don't use that word. If you're using print or PA announcements to recruit, don't use the word "volunteer." Stereotypes about volunteering tend to block your message.

Try using phrases such as, "get involved" or "become part of ..." Use the title of the volunteer position in your advertising. Phrases like "Be a mover and shaker" or "take charge of this project" tend to give the position more appeal and power.

Great Expectations for Assemblies

Many of us assume that our students know the appropriate behaviour for large group gatherings, but that sadly is not the case. How many times have you seen students talking during a performance or acting up while a speaker presents? Of all the good reasons for holding large group meetings in the course of an academic year, the most notable is that no other vehicle provides the opportunity to teach correct "large group behaviour." If there are no assemblies or large group gatherings except for athletic events and concerts, the only behaviour norms our next generation will know will be those arena-type behaviours.

Tips for Appropriate Group Behaviour

Investing some time in teaching appropriate group behaviour will help make your next large group gathering more successful. Use the following tips to ensure success:

1. Have a person in authority meet with the group, calm the group before the program begins and explain the expectations:
 - We gather in large audiences to listen to new ideas and to get useful information for our own lives. You will be in audience all your life—large group experiences at university, rallies, in churches, and in theatres. Know how to behave and practicing those behaviours is in your best interest.
 - Because of the nature of large gatherings it is not possible to sit and visit with those around you. The murmur will be distracting to others and will appear to be rude to the speaker. Please sit quietly and concentrate on what is being said. That is the polite thing to do. It allows others in the audience to get the maximum benefit from the presentation.
 - Many presenters ask for audience participation. Appropriate responses are part of the group experience and help each audience member gain the most from the presentation. To that end, it is best to participate if what you are asked to do does not offend you or compromise your beliefs in any way.
 - If you believe you will be tempted to carry on side conversations while the presentation is in progress because of those around you, please move to a location with less possible distraction.

2. Having established the expectations for the audience, list the results of not meeting those expectations. This should be done in a non-threatening way. Perhaps, “For those who find meeting these expectations not acceptable, we have established another room for your use as a study hall. You may choose to go there now if you wish. If you choose to stay here and for some reason we need to ask you to leave, please leave quickly out of respect for others so they can continue to enjoy the presentation. Thank you!”
3. Determine ahead of time those who will have the most difficulty paying attention and seat them with helpful staff members. Perhaps working with them one on one to further emphasize the necessity for respectful audience behaviour will help them better understand their role as an audience member.
4. Make sure your sound system is adequate. Generally the volume would be set just above a normal speaking voice—too loud is a distraction. If you must err, err on the side of too little volume.
5. Finally, make sure the adults are demonstrating the correct behaviour—sitting in the audience, participating, and paying attention to the presentation. Good examples teach more than words.

Mike Smith

This article appeared in the magazine, *Leadership for Student Activities*. Mike Smith addresses more than 100,00 student and teachers each year on motivation and thinking. You can visit his website at www.differencemakers.com

Good Assembly Checklist

- The purpose or theme of the assembly is identified and publicized.
- Who will attend the assembly has been identified. (Not all assemblies need to be offered to the whole school.)
- A seating plan identifying homerooms and where teachers are sitting.
- Assembly has a clearly written agenda that lists the order of acts and time to be taken.
- Participants have practiced and are aware of what is happening.
- The host takes care of the guest(s) after the assembly.
- Organizational materials placed in folder for post-event evaluation and for next year's committee.

Awareness Night

Showcase the variety of services and recreational opportunities within your community by running a Community Awareness Night. This can be run in February or in September when the amateur sports groups and local groups want to make people aware of their programs.

The gymnasium is set up in a “store front” organization and allows everyone to pick up literature about each service and have questions answered regarding times, cost and availability.

Panel discussions can be held throughout the evening on topics of local or general importance. This is moderated by students and is an excellent opportunity to learn the process of inviting, hosting and thanking speakers.

Groups that would find this type of opportunity suitable in your community would be:

- Amateur sports
- YMCA-YWCA
- Block Parents
- 4-H
- Service Clubs
- Fire Department
- Community Policing
- Big Brothers -Big Sisters
- Child Find
- Health Unit
- Dance Studios
- Martial Arts Clubs
- Scouts and Guides
- John Howard Society
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Parks and Recreation

This is a great evening for adults and children promoting community awareness and involvement.

Human Tic-Tac-Toe

This is a leadership exercise in communication skills. The key is to discuss the feelings and frustrations that the players experience as they participate.

Materials: Nine chairs

- Clear a large space in the center of the classroom.
- Place the chairs in the form of tic-tac-toe (3 rows and 3 columns) with space to walk between each chair.
- Two teams of five are chosen. The teams stand on opposite sides of the chairs.
- The object of the game is to win at tic-tac-toe.
- The game **MUST** be played in complete silence, and with **ABSOLUTELY** no communication of any kind, verbal or non-verbal, between teams or teammates. No grunting, pointing, eye-movements, etc.

The lesson in the game is on perception — sometimes what we see isn't exactly what someone else sees. Usually in the first couple of games or so, a player or players, will have the opportunity to win the game for their team, but will be in a defensive frame of mind and therefore block the other team from winning. This game produces great fun and competition. A good variation allows the team that plays second to get two moves. What is interesting is that the team that gets this advantage rarely wins !!!

*Chris Korte
Archbishop Jordan School*

Dusk to Dawn Activity-a-Thon

The idea of using a “thon” to raise funds is anything but new. What may be unique is the number of activities included in this “thon” and that the funds raised directly help the student who participates. Many “thons” focus on one activity for participation. The activity-a-thon is limited only by the number of adult supervisors participating. The more supervisors — the more potential for variety in the activities. With cutbacks being a reality in education across the country, many of our co-curricular programs are in danger of being cancelled if the student participant does not help in the funding of the program. The “user pay” concept is becoming more common. To help students who may not have the means to take part in some activities because they don't have the money needed, by participating in this fundraising opportunity the student will be able to directly put the funds raised to any team, club or organization in their name. Therefore all involved benefit directly.

Tips for Success

- Let club and team staff advisors know early about the activity so they can encourage their students to take part. As well, they may wish to participate as an added incentive for their own students to participate.
- Have the student council, who will organize the event, phone to get the best deal they can on t-shirts, food etc. Money can be saved in this area.
- Control all funds through the student activities office. This ensures accountability. Be sure to get receipts for anything purchased and be sure there is a paper trail for the student who participates showing the money distributed to the appropriate group. Also, be sure to let the staff advisor know how much money the student has collected.
- Students must submit all monies. They cannot keep any cash for personal use. All monies must run through the books of student council. This will help to maintain the integrity of the activity.

Purpose

- To provide each student an opportunity to fundraise for a specific club or organization in his or her name.
- To allow each student to access those funds for his or her personal use in an activity related to that club or organization.
- To generate funds to help student council provide T-shirts, food and equipment to run an activity of this nature.
- To create a memorable experience for all those staff and students who participate.

Method

Beginning on Friday at 7:00 pm and continuing until 7:00 am on Saturday, all student participants will begin a variety of activities including the following “Thons”: badminton, basketball, volleyball, games, computer, music, and dance.

At 5 minutes to the hour there will be a break and students will have the choice to move to another station to begin to take part on the hour.

Security

Though we expect no problems with this type of activity, we seriously address safety and security.

- At any given time through the night there will be six staff members on duty.
- All doors to the school will be locked at 7:00 pm.
- All participants will be given a T-shirt that must be worn indicating that they are a part of the activity.
- Once students have checked in at an activity they will be expected to stay until the end of the hour at that activity.

Rules

All participants *must* stay in the designated activity areas they have chosen during each hour.

Like with any other school activity alcohol is prohibited.

In accordance with the rules of the activity, smoking is prohibited because students must stay in the school.

No participant will be allowed to leave the school unless accompanied by a parent or guardian and with the permission of the teacher in charge of the event.

All participants *must* have a student card.

Entry Fee

Though we wish our participants to have fun there must be a monetary commitment as well. The first \$25.00 of the money pledged to each individual will go to student activities to help subsidize the cost of the t-shirts, food, and any rental equipment for the dance.

This is an excellent way for your active students and staff to meet each other and socialize at an event designed to raise them money and have fun at the same time.

*Mark Hunniford
Galt Collegiate Institute*

The 13 Commandments of the Student Council Office

1. If you open it, close it.
2. If you turn it on, turn it off.
3. If you dirty it, clean it.
4. If you borrow it, return it.
5. If you unlock it, lock it up.
6. If you move it, put it back.
7. If you make a mess, straighten it back up.
8. If you break it, tell someone.
9. If you can't fix it, talk to someone who can.
10. If it belongs to someone else, get permission to use it.
11. If you don't know how to operate it, ask someone who does.
12. If it should be done, do it.
13. If you value it, take care of it.

*taken from the “Golden Rules for
Living by Ann Landers” adapted
by T. Heethuis*

Comic Ice Breaker

Photocopy the colour comics from a newspaper. Cut each individual comic into its separate frames. Mix up the pieces of comic and then have each person take a frame.

Form groups according to what comic strip they have, and then ask the group to put the comic in order as it would have appeared.

Start a discussion in each group or the whole group about what is your favourite comic strip and why.

Quotes

It is possible to fly without motors but not without knowledge.

Wilber Wright

The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself.

Thales

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.

Ambrose Bierce

To be good is noble, but to teach others how to be good is nobler—and much less trouble.

Mark Twain

One person with courage makes a majority.

Andrew Jackson

Don't aim at success—the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of one's surrender to a person other than oneself. Happiness must happen, and the same holds for success: you have to let it happen by not caring about it.

Viktor Frankl

You have to expect things of yourself before you can do them.

Michael Jordan

He who stops being better stops being good.

Oliver Cromwell

Teaching Leadership

As an advisor for activities or as a teacher of a leadership class, you must remember that no matter what happens you are trying to teach your students about leadership. Some of the things that happen in activities can be a little more catastrophic than a normal classroom situation.

For example, your students have just run a grade-nine welcome event that has gotten out of hand. The event involved quite a bit of pudding and the gym is now well plastered with the stuff.

What do you do?

Punish: “That’s the last time we run that event at this school. You did not control the event or make attempts to stop the kids from messing up the gym.”

Message to the students: When you have a problem, you are the cause of the problem.

Rescue: “That’s all right. These things happen. We’ll get the custodian to help clean up the mess.”

Message to the students: When you have a problem, it is someone else’s problem.

Teach: “Looks like you have a problem there. Get some mops, water, and paper towels. You can help me clean up this mess.” After the mess is cleaned up, “What can we do next time to make sure this doesn’t happen again?”

Message to the students: You have a problem, you can help to solve the problem, and I’ll be able to help you if you need it.

When students make mistakes, good teachers do the following:

- i) acknowledge that students have done something wrong
- ii) give them ownership of the problem
- iii) offer them ways to solve it
- iv) show them that they have the power to solve the problem

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