

CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Update November 2017

GISS



Some of the committee members

The GISS WELLNESS Committee is focusing on 2 initiatives this year:

1) Wellness Wednesdays:

Once or twice a month workshops are being offered during a morning “Flex block” on subjects to do with wellness.

Last month Robyn Thomas of the Stigma-Free Society visited both the high school and Salt Spring Middle School to offer a workshop on “Overcoming Mental Health Challenges.”

This month Andria Scanlan and Paige Penny (former GISS student) facilitated a workshop on “Body Image” attended by 15 students.



Paige and Andria

Next month Jodi French, a counselor with IWAV will lead a workshop on strategies for “Coping with Stress at Home”.

2) Peer Counselling training and support:

We now have seed money for the program from the GISS PAC and have applied for a Healthy Schools grant partnering with Public Health (Jenny Redpath) as well as an application in process to the McCreary Society to cover the cost of a training and ongoing weekly supervision for students interested in being peer counsellors. Christa Campsall who is back on staff at GISS has kindly agreed to do the training and supervision. Students have designed the application form and the online version as well as a paper copy are now available.

The **GISS** Writers’ Group

The GISS Writers’ Group has been meeting since the beginning of October, writing and collaging thanks to the support of the Salt Spring Arts Council and Opus Art Supplies in Victoria who kindly provide us with journals, paints, pastels... We have applied for a grant for the second semester through the BC Arts Council Art Starts program. Once more we are joined by 3 international students – 2 from Germany and 1 from Sweden!



Some of our Writers’ Group members

Through a collaboration with Salt Spring Literacy members of the Group and any other interested students will also be given the opportunity to connect with an elder at Greenwoods/Braehaven and

listen to and record their stories, to be printed in a collection before the end of June.

French Immersion

“REAL” 9

Grade 9 students in the French Immersion program at GISS continue to have the opportunity to experience mock job interviews in French during this semester thanks to several loyal Francophone volunteers.

Robotics First Competition

The Cyber Scorpions were among the semi-finalists at the First Robotics competition last year. Once again this year adult mentors are highly involved and we are currently looking for an engineer to fill the spot of someone who is no longer able to participate and an accountant and fund-raiser to help us raise the funds needed to take the team to Calgary in April.

ELL (English Language Learners)

2 adults have been visiting the classrooms this year with a focus on conversational skills. Our newest volunteer is of Japanese origin, and is especially keen to help Japanese students who are struggling to communicate in English.

Salt Spring Community Radio

A group of enthusiastic students have met with 2 representatives of the new community radio station in order to become involved in the creation of programming for/by youth.

Home Words

The Home Words project is underway with 6 new intergenerational Writing Groups to start in the community in January/February 2018.

Among the populations to benefit will be a group of clients from IWAV, a group of residents on Galiano, a Seniors' Group and a new youth group.



Home Words

Experience the transformative power of personal storytelling.

Learn to facilitate multi-generational writing groups.

Writing in Community

Homewords is a partnership project of the Salt Spring Arts Council and Connecting Generations, funded by the BC Arts Council, the Salt Spring Foundation with journals supplied by Opus Art Supplies and refreshments provided by Country Grocer.

SIMS

Conversation practice for French Immersion students

2 French-speaking volunteers visit the French Immersion classrooms every week in order to give students the opportunity to practice reading and conversational skills.

Workshops and presentations

The GISS Wellness Committee is hoping to offer workshops at SIMS similar to the Wellness Wednesday workshops at GISS. Mindful Mondays and Thoughtful Tuesdays or Thursdays are also options..!

OTHER INVOLVEMENTS

Growing Innovation

Connecting Generations has applied once again to be part of Growing Innovation, the joint UBC and Ministry of Education project that focuses on innovative projects and programs that are created in rural communities in B.C. This year we have asked for support to

include a project at Windsor House School in North Vancouver which is part of SD 64.

“Writing Ourselves Homewards” will consist of the delivery of a half day workshop for a group of up to 15 students and teachers and/or community members at one of the locations where Windsor House is currently based. We will explore what "Home" means through the 4 step practice of Writing Alone Together: Writing Freely, Reading aloud, Listening Deeply and Bearing Witness. The benefits of this project will be that it will give us the opportunity:

- to test our rural based project in an urban environment, (without leaving the school district!)
- to witness how the 4 writing practices which we have used for 6 years on Salt Spring are applicable in a different culture
- to provide Windsor House School with a further opportunity to look at their own homelessness from another perspective and, we hope,
- to inspire adults and youth alike at Windsor House to continue this very valuable habit of "Writing Alone Together".

Aboriginal Education Committee

Connecting Generations continues to participate on the SD 64 Aboriginal Education committee.

Local Action Team (LAT)

Connecting Generations has attended monthly meetings of the Local Action Team.

Grant applications

So far this year, Connecting Generations has been successful in 4 grant applications:

- SS Arts Council for 2 workshop series on “The written and spoken word” and “Multi-media storytelling and collage”.
- The BC Arts Council Arts-Based Community Development program for “Home Words -Writing in Community”
- GISS PAC for a Peer Counselling program
- Salt Spring Foundation for “Home Words -Writing in Community”