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Weather



TODAY:
FLURRIES

HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -4



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -13



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -19



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -4
LOW OF -15



FRIDAY:
CLOUDY PERIODS

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF 12

Saturdays at the CABMN Youth Centre are the perfect blend of creativity, learning and fun!



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Youth Program has seen some changes this year. Thursdays Boys Group and Fridays Girls Group for ages 5-12 have increased the programs from after school to 5pm giving parents who work an easier pick up time for their kids. On Saturdays the activities begin at 10am and run through to 10pm with a variety of groups taken place for a variety of ages.

Saturday morning's Eleanor Cote, a member of the CAB Youth Services Support Team, animates the young Leaders Group for youth ages 5-12 from 10:30am to noon when those participating are encouraged to bring their lunch to mingle with friends prior to the start up of afternoon programs. The Leadership group work on self-esteem, team support, community minded efforts and activities that reach beyond their own area (sometimes into another country).

On Saturday, January 25, the group welcomed adult guests for lunch as part of their "appreciation day" activities where the youth had prepared a buffet of salad, fruits, vegetables, cold cuts and desserts to share. Guests were also presented with cards and gifts thanking them for their efforts in supporting the youth in a variety of programs and events. The Leadership group made speeches and had also created a video presentation of photos and music to honour the work of their guests. The adults recognized were extremely touched and each of them was given a copy of the video to bring home.

While Leadership group is going on in one area of the Youth Centre located at 282 Principale in Mansonville, Ethan Ball, also a member of the YC



COURTESY

Saturday Leadership: Front row left to right: Amber, Dakota Paige, Payton Bouchard, Back row, left to right: Amelya Jersey, Alexis Eldridge and Brianna Woodard (missing from photo: Ken Clifford)

Youth Coordination Team is animating the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Mansonville Chapter in another room. This group is for youth ages 11-14 and it focuses on activities to prevent destructive decision making and positive choices for youth and adults. The topics discussed and prevention promoted by SADD has grown far beyond only focusing on drunk driving. The youth discuss many topics and encourage all to be responsible in their decision making regardless of the topic.

"We don't ask anyone to be perfect, we ask that people be responsible," explained one SADD member.

This year's SADD group is made up of six girls: Kate Eldridge, Savannah Jersey, Danika Robinson, Hunter Bouchard, Jasmine Mierzwinski and Emilie-Anne Sherrer. As Ethan Ball states, "I have a dream team of wonderful leaders to work with and I admire them for their ideas, hard work and devotion."

The SADD group meets from 10:30am to noon on Saturdays and then share lunch hour together before the afternoon groups begin. The group is looking forward to upcoming projects and events that include: the Winterfest Outdoor Family Fun Day where they work alongside the Former Youth Involvement (FYI) to do the activities. This year the event will take place on Saturday February 8 from 10am to 3pm at the Mansonville English School. The group is also working with the Leadership group on a project initiated by

Bolton-Est Mayor, Joan Eby where the youth will be pen pals with a group from Colombia. This project is in the beginning stages and is already warmly being embraced by the youth who are practicing their Spanish in anticipation.

From 1:00pm to 3:30pm volunteer Patricia Lachance and Mable Hastings animated the Dance/Theatre program for youth ages 5-14. This year the group has been asked to perform in three different places and this has created an excited buzz within the group. Dances from movies like, Mama Mia, Aladdin, Beetlejuice and more will be featured. This amazing and talented group of young people are an inspiration and features youth from Potton, Bolton, Cowansville and beyond.

From 4:00-10:00pm the afternoon is all about hanging with friends, enjoying activities and making use of the Youth Centre's equipment and games. Starting with the Youth Outreach drop-in from 4:00 to 7:00pm and then regular drop-in from 7:00 to 10:00pm, the youth can enjoy: Virtual reality gaming, pool tables, ping pong, air hockey, fuse ball, rock band, boxing, music, board games, group games, bingo...

For more information about Saturday programs or any of the CABMN Youth activities, contact 450-292-4886 or visit the website at www.cabmn.org and sign up for our free weekly newsletter.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

