

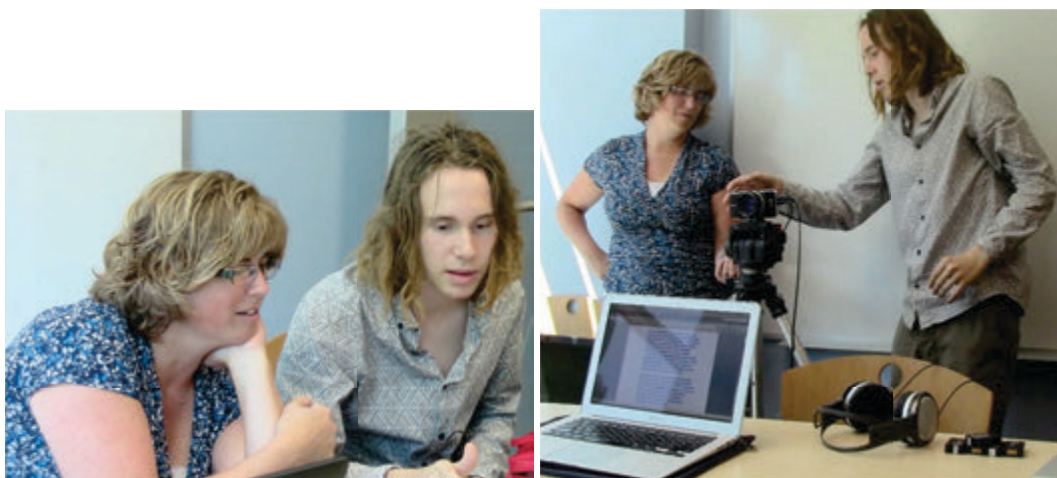
CONNECTING GENERATIONS

Update November 2015

E LEARNING COURSE

*Our objective for **Connect and Learn** is to develop an online course that will address the needs of community mentors who have already volunteered their time to assist in the programs and also those of community members who are looking for inspiration, encouragement and support in order to become involved as mentors. The online course will present guidelines, suggestions and interactive opportunities for users and will include videoed interviews with community members who have already been involved with Connecting Generations.*

The Salt Spring Foundation have kindly given us an extension for our project which was originally due to be completed and ready to publish in September. We are now expecting to have it ready by the end of this year and we will be inviting input and asking for feedback from committee members through an online review platform shortly.



Holly McDonald of Spark and Co continued to mentor Dexter Nash, during the summer and early part of the Fall. Dexter graduated from GISS last June.

GISS

New volunteers

We have quite a few new volunteers this Fall, through the local branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women and a recent article in the Driftwood and post on the Salt Spring Exchange calling for scientists and engineers. (See below). We now have 415 names and short bios on the database. More than half of these are adults who are offering to share skills, interests and life experience with youth. The remainder is made up of either current students or alumni, some of who are interested in coaching adults.

ELL (English Language Learners)

We have 4 regular visitors to the class and 2 others who expect to be returning shortly. 2 weeks ago we held a very useful meeting that gave our loyal volunteers an opportunity to make suggestions as well as to compare notes.

Mentorships

2 Grade 12 students are doing an independent study project on sign language. A community volunteer is coming into school once a week to give them lessons and will help them to prepare a presentation for the assessment of their work.



Please visit the Connecting Generations website for a short video:
<http://connectinggenerations.net/progress-in-sign-language/>

GISS Intergenerational Writers' Group

Enthusiasm continues to run high in the Writers' Group. This semester we have funding from the B.C. Arts Council for a writing and multi-media arts project called "Strong on the Inside", designed to highlight and cultivate resilience. We have a large group of 14

students, including 5 young men, one of whom is in Grade 6 plus 4 adults.



SIMS

A Grade 7 student passionate about horses is going to meet a professional horsewoman who won the North American Arabian championships a couple of years ago ...

FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY

Fernwood will have its own Writers' Group starting in the New Year.

OTHER INVOLVEMENTS

CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women)

Maggie Allison and Sarah H.N. presented at a meeting of the Salt Spring branch of the CFUW as they are now partnering with SD 64.

SIS (Scientists and Innovators in Schools program)

Science World British Columbia contacted Sarah HN regarding the Connecting Generations program after seeing a video posted on the Ministry of Education website with the result that a representative of Science World will hold a training workshop for scientists and engineers interested in participating in the program on December 2nd at GISS and will give 3 workshops at Elementary Schools on Thursday 3rd. <https://www.scienceworld.ca/sis>

Growing Innovation

This is the 5th year that Connecting Generations is part of the Growing Innovation program supported by the Ministry of Education through U.B.C.

Project description

Through the Connecting Generations program, *Learn and Give* will look for strength-based connections in order to focus on ways in which young people can find intrinsic motivation to connect, share, learn and give as the foundation of their education.

Inquiry/research question Building on our elearning course developed for community mentors, our research question will be “How are adults inspiring youth to find intrinsic motivation to succeed at school and to become healthy, contributing members of our community?” We would like to support positive interactions between students and adults, whether teachers or mentors, keeping in mind aboriginal practices and philosophy in the education of youth.

Anticipated outcomes for students

We hope to inspire more students to find new healthy ways to connect with adults in the community and in doing so, to realize their own natural inclinations to share and give. We believe that the work we are doing will empower them to find their voices, to take responsibility for their learning and to take on leadership roles both at school and in the community.

Health and Wellness Group

Connecting Generations is a member of the School District’s Health and Wellness Group that meets once a month.

Aboriginal Education Committee

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

Article for Reclaiming Youth International Journal

An article was submitted in August for inclusion in the Reclaiming Youth International Journal. Although accepted for publication, the journal has since been discontinued as Dr. Martin Brokenleg and colleagues are no longer part of Reclaiming Youth International. The article is about Connecting Generations as it relates to the Circle of Courage model of Positive Youth Development and is posted on the Connecting Generations website:

<http://connectinggenerations.net/circles-of-courage/>