

the GOAL post

INTRODUCING The GOAL Post

This newsletter is a collaborative effort of the GOAL Networking Committee. We are a group of individuals, from both public and private schools in Québec, responsible for implementing a key piece of school reform: the *Guidance-Oriented Approach to Learning* or "GOAL." (You'll find your local representative(s) listed on p. 4.) The GOAL Post will be published three times a year. We hope you'll find it a user-friendly resource for integrating career orientation into your schools and classrooms.

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*Making Dreams
Come True*

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

Why GOAL matters to students and educators



The GOAL Networking Committee

Québec schools have a legal mission to impart knowledge to students, foster their social development and give them qualifications for the future. To do this, we must encourage students to explore their identities, skills and passions, as well as the career preparation and employment possibilities open to them. Understanding the links between what they are learning in school and their lives in society makes a big difference in how they approach their studies and pursue their dreams.

How can individual guidance counsellors or teachers take on the challenge of helping students achieve these goals when our time and expertise already feel stretched to the limit? The "impossible dream"? Not if we pool our resources!

We're on your team!

The Education Act, the Basic School Regulation and the Québec Education Program (QEP) all advocate teamwork. They encourage a "decompartmentalization of professional practices" and "collective, concerted action" by school personnel and their partners in the home and community. (Ref. *Making Dreams Come True – Achieving Success Through the Guidance-Oriented Approach*, 2002). Rather than being an "add-on" to the workload of teachers or counsellors, GOAL actually helps meet the objectives of school reform.

The GOAL Networking Committee is starting its third year as a provincial team. Our mission is to share information, identify needs, develop materials and oversee initiatives to support the implementation of the Guidance-Oriented Approach to Learning. We hope this newsletter and personal contact with your school's GOAL coordinator will entice you to join us in the energizing experience of school-based career orientation.

Your GOAL Networking Committee

Québec schools have a legal mission to impart knowledge to students, foster their social development and give them qualifications for the future. To do this, we must encourage students to explore their identities, skills and passions, as well as the career preparation and employment possibilities open to them. Understanding the links between what they are learning in school and their lives in society makes a big difference in how they approach their studies and pursue their dreams.

GOAL: Impossible dream or not-to-be-missed opportunity?

Give us your feedback via the "Contact Us" section of the GOAL Web site:

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

Developing a GOAL action plan

by Kelly Butler

A symposium organized by the GOAL Networking Committee in April 2004 gave participants from every English-language school board a starting point for developing GOAL action plans. The Western Québec School Board (WQSB) shares its progress since then.



Participants at the "Team up with GOAL" symposium in April 2004.

Do you know what action your school board is taking to implement GOAL?

Would you like to be involved? Contact your GOAL representative (see p. 4) to learn more.

Nine representatives from WQSB attended the GOAL symposium, including a consultant, two teachers

and six guidance counsellors. The symposium helped participants to understand the purpose of GOAL in relation to the QEP and the impact it has on a student's learning and motivation.

Each Western Québec participant agreed to act as GOAL representative for her/his school. Several key questions were addressed while developing our GOAL action plan, including:

- *How do we raise awareness about GOAL and its direct connection to the reform?*
 - *How do we create school teams?*
 - *How will individual GOAL representatives ensure that the whole school accepts responsibility for supporting and implementing GOAL?*
 - *What professional development will be available to facilitate this task?*
- Since then we have continued to meet to discuss ways that GOAL can be successfully implemented. Our plan includes:
- Delivering school-by-school professional development sessions for teachers, principals, guidance counsellors and other staff to explain GOAL and its connection to the new reform.

- Working with individual schools to determine how best to form GOAL teams. (One possibility is to have a GOAL representative sit in on cycle team meetings to suggest ways that guidance-oriented material can be incorporated into existing themes and projects.)
- Holding regular meetings throughout the year to keep school staff informed and updated on actions being taken to implement GOAL.
- Developing a central career resource library and making GOAL-related resources and materials readily available to all teachers.

These initiatives are under discussion with individual schools, and targets are being set for the 2004-2005 school year.

The guidance-oriented approach to learning ...

- integrates career development content and concepts into the Québec Education Program
- motivates students to make vital links between school and work
- improves school success for all students
- helps students develop their identities and further their education and career planning



Ten tips for getting started

by Sandra Salesas and Cheryl Pratt

1. Check whether GOAL is integrated into your school's educational project and success plan. If it isn't, be on the team to build it in! Ensuring that your Administration and Governing Board are behind GOAL is essential to its success.
2. Acknowledge the GOAL-type initiatives already underway in your school. There may be many more than you realize.
3. Create a team to promote GOAL within your school. Include both in-school and community partners. Start with people who are keen and others will join!
4. Schedule specific times for the team to meet. (If GOAL is part of the school success plan, time will become available.)
5. Identify the roles team members will assume. Remember GOAL is not the responsibility of one person (i.e. guidance counsellor), but rather a concerted team approach.
6. Build on existing GOAL-related initiatives and activities. Learn from the best practices of others.
7. Use community resources to support your initiatives. Local business partners and employment agencies may be willing to provide their expertise at no cost. Check out the GOAL Web site for ideas.
8. Assess how your GOAL activities are helping you meet the requirements of the reform. Spread the word!
9. Evaluate your progress regularly to ensure that GOAL is integrated into the entire educational program (not just a series of isolated activities or actions) and is available to all students (not just for specifically identified student groups).
10. Enjoy the process and remember your GOAL Networking Committee is here to support your team!

Economics and Media Literacy meet at La Presse

by Ingrid Hove-Gust

A trip to a career fair, followed by a visit to the Montréal daily La Presse, provided an excellent opportunity for cross-curricular and career-related learning.

Just about a year ago, Economics teacher **Brian Senecal**, Media Literacy teacher **Renée Lozoff** and I got together to plan a cross-curricular field trip for some 25 Secondary V students at the **Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier School Board's Ste-Agathe Academy**.

At the time, our students were studying production and distribution systems in their Economics class. Meanwhile, in their Media Literacy course, they were learning how publications use images and photos to get a message across.

We decided to combine a morning visit to the Montréal Education Training Career Fair with an afternoon tour of *La Presse*. The fair would expose the students to many different careers, while the trip to the newspaper's offices would allow them to meet people in actual jobs. There, they could also observe how the principles they were studying in class were employed in the real world.

Brian was able to arrange the two-hour *La Presse* visit through a contact of his who worked there. Advance in-class preparation helped the students get the most out of their day.

We did more than walk through and look. We stopped, talked and learned.

At *La Presse*, we got an overview of the entire operation and then broke up into three smaller groups. The students spoke with a variety of employees, including journalists and photo editors, and began to understand the complexities involved in publishing a large metropolitan daily. Discussion centred on real media and business issues such as:

- What factors does the photo editor consider when choosing a front-page image?
- How do you decide whether or not to hold the presses for a late-breaking story?



Ste-Agathe Academy students with a representative of *La Presse*.

- How much does that cost and how will it affect the paper's timely distribution?

The students also came away with a better understanding of the wide range of jobs available at *La Presse*. Previously, they might only have thought of the opportunities for journalists. After their tour, they realized that a newspaper also needs marketing and sales experts, layout specialists, press operators, support staff, a distribution system, etc. Finally, they saw first-hand how much teamwork is involved in producing a quality product.

This type of tour is ideally suited to an individual class. Since Ste-Agathe Academy is a small school, we were able to include our entire Secondary V population. With a group of manageable size, we did more than walk through and look. We stopped, talked and learned.

WEB SITE UPDATE

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

GOAL Web site is continually expanding

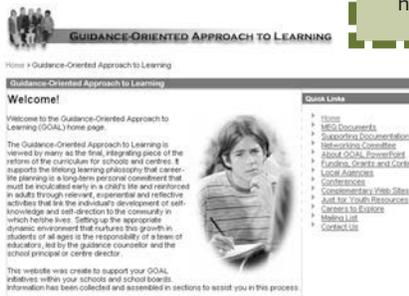
by Cheryl Pratt

GOAL is a new concept. So it can be daunting to know where to get more information, find sample lesson plans and other resources and read about best practices. The GOAL Networking Committee anticipated this need and created the GOAL Web site.

"Web site update" will appear regularly in The GOAL Post. It will help you navigate the GOAL Web site and alert you to new features and information. It will also highlight links to other relevant sites. For example, are you a science teacher look-

ing for materials to supplement your curriculum? Check out **The Biotechnology Human Resource Council's** site at <http://www.bhrc.ca/BioCareers/index.html>.

It offers career information in biotechnology, lesson plans, experiments and more in a free Teacher's Guide.



Give us your feedback!
The GOAL Web site is constantly expanding. Your feedback can help us ensure that we are giving you the resources and information you need. Just click on the "Contact Us" section of the site. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

YOUR GOAL NETWORKING COMMITTEE

Contact us!

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RESOURCE CENTRAL

Resources to help you achieve your GOAL

by Cheryl Pratt

Each issue of The GOAL Post will highlight a few of the many resources that can help you implement GOAL. Many are available free of charge.

Canada Prospects 2004-2005

Of interest to anyone engaged in the career-exploration process, this year's version of *Canada Prospects* magazine is based on the theme: *Make Career Connections - Team Up!* Produced annually by the Canada Career Consortium, this colourful magazine connects readers with the people, programs and resources they need to build a rewarding career. It contains articles, quizzes, profiles,



Web site links and more. A companion *Facilitator's Guide* helps classroom teachers, guidance counsellors and career and employment counsellors use the magazine effectively with their students or clients. Both *Canada Prospects* and the *Facilitator's Guide* are available for distribution in early September. They are both free of charge. You can order them online at <http://www.canadacareerweek.com/ccw/>.

Canada Career Week Resources

Have you ever considered organizing a career week in your school or centre? Would you like to expand upon an existing career day? Visit the *Canada Career Week Web site* at <http://www.canadacareerweek.com/ccw/>. Click on "Order your FREE Canada Career Week Resources Now!" to obtain a Canada

Career Week event planning guide, as well as a *Team Up!* planning calendar and poster. This year, Canada Career Week takes place from October 31 to November 6, 2004.

Do you have a favourite resource you'd like to share with our readers? E-mail me at cpratt@lbpsb.qc.ca.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Occupational charades

by Kelly Butler

Linking academic subjects to the workplace can be a motivational tool for students. Here's an easy and fun way to integrate the QEP's Personal and Career Planning skills and competencies into different subject areas.

- Split the class into teams to play charades with a career-oriented theme.

- Team members take turns acting out an occupation of their choice.
- Their teammates have two minutes to figure out the occupation in question. If they guess correctly within the two-minute time limit, the team scores a point. If not, the other team has a chance to win a point by giving the correct answer.

Note: Classes other than languages or drama should focus on occupations related to the subject area. Language or drama students can choose any occupation that interests them.

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