

the GOAL post

Preparing students for life

In helping students to become “privately happy and publicly useful,” educators face new challenges that require new solutions.

The educational reform bids us to instruct and socialize our students and to provide them with qualifications starting at the earliest elementary level.

The business community expects our students (and its future employees) to have what Human Resources and Skills Development Canada calls *essential skills* and what the Conference Board of Canada calls *employability skills*.

During the course of their working lives, today's students will also need to continuously learn and to manage their own careers, as they will most certainly experience a succession of jobs in a variety of industries.

Preparing students to meet all these requirements is an exciting challenge – and a huge one. The Conference Board's Dr. Michael R. Bloom describes it as helping students become “privately happy and publicly useful.”

Getting GOAL into the classroom

The Guidance-Oriented Approach to Learning provides a way of achieving this success. By encouraging concerted action on the part of both in-school and community partners, GOAL builds on each educator's expertise. Cross-curricular by nature, GOAL also makes direct links between what students are learning in school and the skills they will need to succeed on their chosen paths.

Schools are experiencing various degrees of success in guiding the identity development of students. Many schools have organized career fairs. We've also noticed increased participation at GOAL workshops.

The next step is to help teachers bring GOAL directly into the classroom by *infusing* it into their curriculum. Administrators, too, are asking how they can ensure that GOAL isn't merely a series of isolated activities but an integral part of the school success plan.

Hence, the focus of this edition: classroom implementation and success-plan support. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Your GOAL Networking Committee

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Bringing the community into the classroom

As part of the career exploration process, these Elementary Cycle Three students from the Lester-B.-Pearson School Board – in partnership with the Board's Centre for Educational Excellence – have been learning about robotics. Taking a GOAL approach, the Centre invited robotics expert Martin Noel from Fanuc Robotics into the classroom to talk to students and teachers about real-life robotics applications.



Making Dreams Come True

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

Québec 

April 29, 2005
Dorval Airport Hilton Hotel

Spring symposium to exemplify collaborative approach

by Barbara Goode

A provincial symposium dealing with teamwork and student success will be a true model of the collaborative approach that is key to GOAL teaching and learning environments.

This event will bring together school board and MEQ representatives responsible for GOAL, Complementary Education Services, New Approaches, New Solutions schools, and School Success initiatives. It will also provide the stage for a variety of timely presentations and exchanges among educators whose combined expertise and efforts make student success far more attainable.

Keynote presentations will address the global connections inherent in the Québec Education Program, the schools' mission and the employability skills endorsed by Canada's

employers. Issues such as school accountability, inclusion, diverse paths and curriculum relevance will be the subject of round table presentations by practitioners recognized for their best practices and innovation.

School boards will be invited to send representatives to this symposium through their directors general and their directors of educational services. (GOAL coordinators are encouraged to help assemble the most dynamic teams possible!) More detailed program and registration information will be circulated soon.

Success-plan help is at hand!

- Enlist your GOAL representative to help you develop a GOAL-friendly success plan. S/he has the community and business contacts, the workplace knowledge and the supporting resources to make an invaluable contribution to your school team.
- Ask to attend the April 29 provincial symposium that will feature a workshop on success-plan development.

GOAL qualifies!

by Cheryl Pratt and Jacques Beaudet

Integrating GOAL into school success plans helps fulfill our mission to instruct, to socialize *and* to provide qualifications.

As educators we readily take on the responsibility to *instruct* our students. Furthermore, we view the educational setting as a natural environment to encourage *socialization*. For many of us, it is the idea of *providing students with qualifications* that remains uncharted territory.

But by integrating GOAL into your school success plan, you are in fact providing students with qualifications. You are:

- encouraging a collaborative, team-approach among teachers, students, parents and business and community partners

- increasing students' knowledge of themselves, their interests and aptitudes
- exposing students to various occupations and the world of work
- demonstrating the relevance of school, thereby increasing student motivation
- reducing the risk of failure or dropping out
- increasing student success and qualifications

GOAL makes links between learning and life. It promotes a positive attitude towards work and the development of effective work habits. It helps students recognize their strengths and make decisions about their future based on these strengths. GOAL qualifies!

ARE YOU GETTING *The GOAL Post*?

To reach the broadest possible audience with a limited printing budget, several copies of *The GOAL Post* are sent to every elementary and secondary school within the English sector. Copies are also sent to adult education and vocational training centres and to your school board office.

Is this distribution working? Are there enough copies to go around? Please give us your feedback via the "Contact Us" section of the **GOAL Web site**.

This Winter 2005 edition is the second of three issues planned for this year. If you missed the introductory issue (Fall 2004), you'll find the electronic version on the GOAL homepage.

Ask your administrator to let you know when *The GOAL Post* arrives.

Is GOAL part of your success plan? Ask yourself these questions:

- Is information on career paths and the academic qualifications needed to pursue them an integral part of your school curriculum?
- Does your school offer student life activities that encourage identity and skill development, while exposing students to possible careers?
- Are life/career planning resources and information readily available to students, parents and staff?
- Has your school established partnerships with business, employment and other community organizations? Are they part of your school team?



Living the learning has students excited and keen

by Normand Touchette

At Mary Gardner School in Châteauguay, Grade 6 students are taking an entrepreneurial route to acquiring cross-curricular and subject-area competencies.

Since the fall of 2004, six teams of students at this New Frontiers School Board school have been using their knowledge and enthusiasm to create six small businesses. The companies have an interesting range of products and services – from student-made greeting cards, jewelry, snacks and books to board- and video-game rentals and a mini message-and-delivery service.

Guiding this year-long initiative is an inspired team that includes three teachers – **Julie Provencher**, **Cher Farnham** and **Cristina Gonzalez** – and special education technician **Bonnie Best**. Typical of the Guidance-Oriented Approach to Learning, all four work closely together. Each staff member also interacts regularly in the classroom with each small-business team. In this way, the teachers progress through their curriculum and integrate the various subject-area and cross-curricular competencies.

While putting together their business budgets, for example, the students learn to communicate using mathematical language. Composing letters to potential sponsors

develops their ability to express themselves in writing. Creating their company logo has allowed them to produce a media work in the visual arts. Since the whole operation is conducted bilingually, the students are exploring all the French-language competencies for this level.

Through their business ventures, the students are also absorbing various cross-curricular competencies. They are cooperating with others, being creative, solving problems, using information and much more.

The kids know that if they don't do something it won't get done.

Moreover, the students are discovering the responsibilities that go with various occupations through the tasks they perform and the individuals they encounter. Each company has a public relations agent who met with me



What a team! From l to r: **Bonnie Best**, **Julie Provencher**, **Benoit Goyer** (community partner), **Cher Farnham** and **Cristina Gonzalez**.

in my role as “journalist.” As I interviewed these young students, I was impressed by their keenness, motivation and entrepreneurial spirit. Each one demonstrated a new level of professionalism, shaking my hand and asking me how I was.

The Mary Gardner teaching team has also linked up with a valuable support resource in the person of Benoit Goyer, Entrepreneurial Promotion and Awareness Officer at the local Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi. Furthermore, the Caisse Populaire of Châteauguay is participating in the students' learning and has generously contributed start-up funding.

Through this direct entrepreneurial experience, these Grade 6 students are not only acquiring new competencies, they are preparing themselves for life. Bravo to them and their teachers, school and community partners!

WEB SITE UPDATE

www.qesnrecit.qc.ca/goal

You asked for curriculum links and you got them!

by Cheryl Pratt

Many of you have told us that you appreciate the information available on the GOAL Web site. You've also told us what was missing: curriculum links that support GOAL!

So we've added a new section to the site. *Curriculum Links* directs you to a number of on-line sites that contain examples of GOAL-related lesson plans for classroom

use. Some lesson plans focus on subject-specific competencies, whereas others are devoted to cross-curricular competencies or the broad areas of learning.

One helpful link is the database of the **Applications of Work and Learning National Project** (www.awal.ca). This professional development project enables Canadian educators to develop classroom curricula after

Have you developed your own GOAL curriculum? Would you consider sharing it with other teachers? Visit the **Curriculum Sharing** section of the GOAL Web site for a simple way to do this.

they have experienced diverse work environments. The curricula relate what is learned in school directly to the workplace. Essential skills (competencies) are also integrated into the lesson plans, which are stored in an easy-to-use, searchable database. Visit this site to find classroom activities that suit your grade level and subject area – or use it as a model to develop your own curriculum.

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RESOURCE CENTRAL

You're smarter than you think

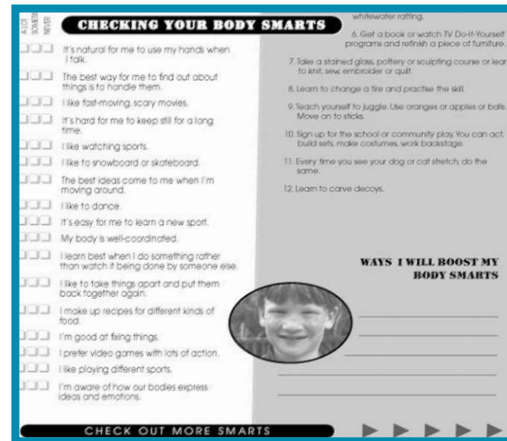
by Ingrid Hove-Gust

Looking for ways to incorporate GOAL into the classroom? Try the *Smart Options* career exploration program.

Based on the theory of multiple intelligences, *Smart Options* helps students recognize, value and develop their eight intelligences or “smarts.” It also shows how one can use different types of smarts to make a living in an ever-changing world. The program includes a full-colour Student’s Resource Book (\$2.00) and a Facilitator’s Guide (\$9.00) with background information and four step-by-step lesson plans for four-to-six hours of classroom time. Exercises and activities can be

adapted for individual or group use and are consistent with QEP concepts and competencies.

Smart Options is designed for students in Secondary Cycle I, but it may also be appropriate for older students, depending on the classroom context. The French version – *Intelli-Options* – nicely complements the themes presented in the Secondary III French second-language program, *Ricochet*. For more information, or to purchase the program, contact the **National Life/Work Centre** toll free at **1-888-533-5683**; or visit its Web site at www.lifework.ca.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

by Cheryl Pratt

No need to replace existing curriculum

Q: I'm a teacher and new to GOAL. How do I implement it? Do I have to replace my existing curriculum? How do I get started?

A: Reading this newsletter will give you a lot of good information. One of the best ways to get started is to team up with others who are already implementing GOAL or who are interested in doing so. Share your ideas and work out a plan together. DO NOT replace your existing curriculum; just build on what is already successful and look for ways to integrate GOAL. Consult the GOAL Web site for ideas. Also remember that you have a representative on the GOAL Networking Committee who is ready to assist you.

Q: Are there workshops or conferences that support the implementation of GOAL?

A: Many options exist to help you implement GOAL. Ask your school board what GOAL-related workshops it may be offering. Ask your Networking Committee representative about participating in our 2005 provincial symposium (see p. 2). You can also check out “Conferences” on the GOAL Web site for a brief description of upcoming events. Conferences provide a great setting for exchanging ideas, learning and networking!

