



Rocky Mt. House AISI C-4 Project Focuses on Safe and Caring Themes

Ecole Rocky Elementary School Principal Bill Snyder is the coordinator of the Alberta Initiative on School Improvement (AIS) C-4 Safe and Caring Schools Initiative. He has organized events in four schools to address bullying and harassment in Rocky Mountain House. Rocky's AISI C-4 Project focuses on building safe and caring themes in the Community. As part of the initiative, Ecole Rocky Elementary School officially raised the flag of the League of Peaceful Schools—a first in Alberta. The goal of the League is to promote courage, character and caring. To promote these qualities, the staff and students celebrated Peace Day in June by



holding a peace rally. The rally included a peace walk, speeches, a magic show and the release of doves. Local businesses donated a lunch and peace cake was served by parent volunteers. The peace walk through town had an official police escort.

In October, the teachers, school staff and parents of the AISI C-4 Project participated in workshops on mobilizing the silent majority—bystanders. Snyder was assisted by Sid Coustell, counsellor at Pioneer School, in organizing the events.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Rocky's C-4 Project to create safe, more caring environments in their schools and community.

If your school uses SACS resources, please contact the SACS office to let us know how the program is working.

Thomas B Riley Jr High School Kicks in for SACS

Last February, Irene Welch, a teacher at Thomas B Riley Junior High School in Calgary, organized a workshop to help teachers contribute original lessons to the SACS secondary website. Thanks to the following Riley teachers for their ideas.

Bonnie Hama – “A Novel Idea: Creating Multi-Media Presentation” Junior High IOP

Christine Gates-Leach – “Fibonacci: Mother Nature’s Math” Math 9

Irene Welch – “Songs are Poems too!” Humanities 9

Janice Prichard and Irene Welch – “Borders—Where Do We Belong?, Once Upon a Time, On the Side Walk Bleeding” Humanities 9

Joyce Perrin and Jason Bogen – “Students Create a Low-organized Game” PE 7

Kathryn Manry – “A Show of Hands” Art (junior or senior high art)

Kyle Honish – “Assessing Behaviors Using Rational Numbers” Math 8

Liisa Lorenson and Jesse Zuk – “The Quebec Act: Diverse Points of View” Social Studies 8

Maureen Leew – “Why Do Different Cultures Develop in Diverse Geographic Areas?” Social Studies 7

Go to www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/index.html to view these lessons.

Choices for Positive Youth Relationships



After the murder of Dawna Speers' daughter Monica, in Mississauga, Ontario, in 1991, the Speers Society was established as a charitable organization committed to the prevention of youth relationship abuse through education and support.

In response to educators throughout the country and with the assistance of youth and many expert youth advocates, the Speers Society has developed a program that will assist in the prevention of relationship abuse. **Choices for Positive Youth Relationships** combines the NFB award-winning film *A Love That Kills* with a six-lesson, curriculum-based instructional guide for use in secondary school classrooms. Through a variety of discussions and activities, youth have the opportunity to identify warning signs symptomatic of abusive relationships, develop skills and strategies to sustain positive relationships, and connect to supportive community resources. **Choices For Positive Youth Relationships** is about respect and safety of both young women and young men and broadens the definition of relationship to include friendships, family, teammates, gangs or co-workers.

Calgary Heights High School and Calgary Queen Elizabeth High School were two of the 14 secondary schools in four provinces that piloted the program. The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, provincial psychological associations, YWCA Canada and Victim Services are some of the many organizations that have endorsed the Choices program. Many school boards across Canada are committed to using the program in the upcoming year, including the Toronto District School Board and BC Lower Mainland School District. Research conducted by the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health in Toronto verifies program effectiveness.

For more information, please visit the Speers Society website at www.speerssociety.org.

Great Article

To find out about UNESCO associated schools read the Diversity Equity and Human Rights newsletter *Just in Time* at www.teachers.ab.ca/diversity/Publications/Just_In_Time/index.htm.

The Alberta Teachers' Association's Safe and Caring Schools Project and Public Legal Education Network of Alberta are co-sponsoring

FACILITATOR TRAINING for the *Toward a Safe and Caring Community* Workshop Series for parents, school staffs, instructors, coaches, community members and older teens.

Where: Red Deer, Alberta, location TBA
When: March 13, 2003
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fee: \$110.00 (includes training costs, materials and lunch)

The *Toward a Safe and Caring Community* workshop series has been prepared to assist adults in helping kids make positive choices about behaving, resolving conflict and managing anger.

This one-day training workshop is designed to prepare facilitators to deliver the *Toward a Safe and Caring Community* workshop series. The series consists of five 2-hour workshops. This training workshop will provide tips on making presentations to adults and give an overview of the topics and content that help adults implement safe and caring strategies with the children in their own lives.

Participants will receive facilitator and participant guides for all workshops, complimentary support booklets, an *Action Handbook: Guide for Implementation* and other resources. Facilitators can recover training costs when they deliver the workshops.

Candidates for this workshop should already have excellent facilitation skills, particularly with respect to adult workshops. They do not need to be teachers.

To register contact Sue Sheffield at (780) 447-9487 (Edmonton), toll free in Alberta 1-800-232-7208 ext 487, fax 780-455-6481 or e-mail sacs@teachers.ab.ca.

Visit our website to learn more about the Safe and Caring Community Program.
www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/programs.html#Community

Niska News is produced by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools (SACS) Project for school and community members. The goal of the SACS Project is to encourage practices that model and reinforce socially responsible and respectful behaviors so that learning and teaching can take place in a safe and caring environment. This newsletter is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about the project. For more information, contact the SACS office by phoning 780-447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta). Copying and distributing Niska News are permitted as long as the source is credited. The newsletter is available online through the SACS Project website at www.teachers.ab.ca/safe/index.html. Editor: Sue Sheffield.