



Re-play, re-vise, re-flect: Mirror Theatre challenges St Joseph's students to take a proactive approach to bullying

St Joseph High School, Edmonton, recently took a proactive approach to building community and promoting socially responsible behavior with their grade 10 students.

On May 1-3, the school hosted Mirror Theatre, a troupe of actors from the University of Alberta who presented *Could A', Should A'*, a series of scenes depicting high school students in real-life, potentially violent conflicts.

Then, in debriefing sessions, students were challenged to find socially

responsible, non-violent solutions to the conflicts and assist the players in re-enacting the revised scenes. Later, students completed group projects, presenting their personal reactions to issues raised.

Students reported that they had fun while being challenged to problem-solve in creative ways. The projects proved to be a meaningful way to promote one of SACS' goals—which is to find non-violent ways of dealing with bullying and anger. The school intends to make this an annual event.

See Mirror Theatre strikes again, *page 4*

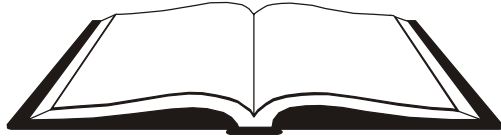


Actors in photo (from left to right): Sarah Burghardt, Yvette Timtim, Chris Hanratti, Jeff Strashok, Jennifer Crumpton, Asha Ram, Nisha Sajani

Artistic Director: Dr Joe Norris

Cast members not in photo who helped write script: Dr Joe Norris, Tara Began, Diane Conrad, Oliver Kamau, Mike Hudema, Anna McCready, Marnie Rutledge, Chris Wedman

Core literature and novel selections for *Toward a Safe and Caring Curriculum—ATA Resources for Integration: Grades 1 to 6*



SACS Topic 1:

Grade 1	<i>Hansel & Gretel</i> <i>Bedtime for Frances</i>
Grade 2	<i>Cinderella</i> <i>The Berenstain Bears' New Baby</i>
Grade 3	<i>Bremen Town Musicians</i>
Grade 4	<i>Ralph S. Mouse</i>
Grade 5	<i>Jacob's Little Giant</i>
Grade 6	<i>Log Jam</i>

SACS Topic 2:

Grade 1	<i>The Ugly Duckling</i>
Grade 2	<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>
Grade 3	<i>The Sandwich</i>
Grade 4	<i>The Secret Garden</i>
Grade 5	<i>The Hiding Place</i>
Grade 6	<i>Song to the Sea God</i>

SACS Topic 3:

Grade 1	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i>
Grade 2	<i>The Moccasin Goalie</i> <i>The Final Game</i>
Grade 3	<i>The Sandwich</i>
Grade 4	<i>Storm Child</i>
Grade 5	<i>From Anna</i>
Grade 6	<i>White Jade Tiger</i>

SACS Topic 4:

Grade 1	<i>Berenstain Bear Stories</i>
Grade 2	<i>Pinkly, Rex and the Bully</i> <i>Arthur's Temper Tantrum</i>
Grade 3	<i>Does Third Grade Last Forever?</i> <i>Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?</i>
Grade 4	<i>Fourth Grade Is a Jinx</i> <i>Dragon's Egg</i>
Grade 5	<i>Under Emily's Sky</i> <i>100 Dresses</i>
Grade 6	<i>The Curses of Third Uncle</i>

SACS Topic 5:

Grade 1	<i>Charlotte's Web</i>
Grade 2	(7 stories based on a quilt theme) Key Concept 1: <i>Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt</i> Key Concept 2: <i>Selina and the Shoo-Fly Pie</i> Key Concept 3: <i>Texas Star</i> Key Concept 4: <i>The Canada Geese Quilt</i> Key Concept 5: <i>Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet</i> Key Concept 6: <i>The Patchwork Quilt</i> Key Concept 7: <i>The Keeping Quilt</i>
Grade 3	<i>Good Grief, Third Grade</i>
Grade 4	<i>Fourth Grade Loser</i>
Grade 5	<i>Shiloh</i>
Grade 6	<i>Number the Stars</i>

Definition of violence

The ATA's SACS project defines violence as “the actual or threatened use of physical, verbal, sexual or emotional power, intimidation or harassment by an individual or group which is harmful to the physical, psychological or social well-being of an individual or group.” This definition was adapted from the work of Dr Irene MacDonald.

Human rights resources for secondary teachers

The Safe and Caring Schools project is pleased to promote teacher-friendly resources that reflect the topics in our program. The Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre (ACLRC) has developed a variety of resources related to SACS Topic 3—Respecting Diversity and Preventing Prejudice.

The ACLRC materials focus on human rights issues in ways that teens can comprehend. Videos and teaching resource packages address such topics as harassment, discrimination and prejudice. The materials are based on universal declarations and rights charters. The lessons provide accurate and current information, ways to engage students interactively and methods to deal with discrimination.

ACLRC Publications for Teachers

Harassment and What You Can Do About It (video). Intended for ages 12 and up. Provides an overview of laws governing harassment, including racial, sexual and other types, using scenarios and featuring youth. Includes user's guide. 17 mins. 2000. \$22 + \$3 s/h.

The Rights Angle: Human Rights Education Using the Newspaper—Teacher and Student Materials. Provides background information for teachers, and student activities on human rights, the newspaper, the Charter, hate crimes, war crimes and applicable laws, suitable for secondary school students. Includes reproducible handouts and overheads. 150+ pages. 1999. \$35 + \$5 s/h.

Discrimination, Human Rights and You—Student Guide (Senior High). Provides information and activities on human rights, the Charter, hate crimes, war crimes and applicable laws. Suitable for students Grades 9 to 12. May be used alone or with teacher's guide. 80+ pages. 1999. The price is \$10 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

Discrimination, Human Rights and You—Student Guide (Junior High). Provides information and activities on human rights, the Charter, hate crimes, war crimes and applicable laws. Suitable for students Grades 6 to 9. May be used alone or with teacher's guide. 80+ pages. 1999. The price is \$10 + \$3 s/h.

Discrimination, Human Rights and You—Teacher's Guide. Provides background information on human rights for teachers (Grades 7 to 12), and activities on human rights, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, hate crimes, war crimes, and more! Tabbed binder format. May be used alone or with student guides. Includes reproducible handouts and overheads. 200+ pages. 1998. The price is \$40 + \$5 s/h. No G.S.T.

Discrimination, Human Rights and You (video). Intended for ages 12 and up. Provides an overview of human rights laws, using scenarios and featuring youth. 15:45 mins. 1997. The price is \$22 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

Sexual Harassment in School: Your Rights and Responsibilities—Teacher's Guide. Provides background information and activities on sexual harassment and applicable laws, with emphasis on the school environment. May be used alone or in conjunction with student manual (see below). 100+ pages. 1997. The price is \$15 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

Sexual Harassment in School: Your Rights and Responsibilities. Pocket-sized manual provides a general overview of sexual harassment and applicable laws, with emphasis on the school environment. Useful for students aged 12 and up. 60+ pages. 1997. The price is \$8 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

International Human Rights Law Series

*Volume I, *Basic Guide to International Human Rights Law*. Pocket-sized student manual provides an overview of international human rights law. Intended for a general audience. Includes a glossary, a list of UN special days and weeks, and a list of human rights agencies. 40+ pages. 1996. The price is \$3.50 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

*Volume II, *International Human Rights Law—Legislation*. Contains the text of 21 international human rights declarations and conventions. 150+ pages. 1996. The price is \$20 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

*Volume III, *Background to International Human Rights Law*. Intended for human rights educators. Contains in-depth information about international human rights law, its substance, and its application and enforcement in Canada. Ideal as a companion to Volumes I and II. 150+ pages. 1997. The price is \$25 + \$3 s/h. No G.S.T.

Annotated Bibliography of Human Rights Materials. A selected list of materials useful to human rights education. Divided by subject and intended to meet the needs of teachers from K to 12 and beyond. 200+ pages. 1995. The price is \$25 + \$4 s/h. No G.S.T.

TO ORDER, CONTACT

Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
c/o University of Calgary
Faculty of Law
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary AB
T2N 1N4
Tel: (403) 220-2505
Fax: (403) 284-0945
Email: <aclrc@calcna.ab.ca>
Web site: <calcna.ab.ca/acl/aclrc.html>



Mirror Theatre strikes again

On May 5, Mirror Theatre had the opportunity to perform for the grade 6 students at St Philip school. This was the first time they shared the play on bullying with an elementary school audience. The cast was delighted to have such an overwhelmingly positive response from the students, who were eager to participate in problem-solving discussions surrounding the issues that arose in the play. After the workshop, students were asked to write a review about the performance, stating their thoughts, feelings and reactions. The following are their impressions taken from excerpts of their writing:

“They performed this to us so that when we get to junior high and high school we won’t bully. They act it out so we understand how it feels to be bullied around with. Some people tease me for fun but I don’t like it. I know how it feels to be teased. I learned a lot from these few plays.”

“[P]erforming in elementary schools is a great idea. If pre-junior high students are aware of these problems, maybe they’ll do something to prevent them from getting worse.”

“The play showed so much of the truth about how it is in school. I would say that all fighting has to stop in all schools. School should be a place to learn not to get killed in. So please stop the fighting.”

“Mirror Theatre believes that by doing these skits they will benefit the students by brainstorming ideas on what they could do. This gives students a little reality check as fun skits turn into pressures and troubling situations.”

“The play taught the grade 6’s a lot about how to be fair and to realize what they do and how the excluded [people] feel.”

“[I]t’s a way of teaching grade 6’s to solve real-life problems.”

“These dazzling actors taught the grade six students about what you coulda and shoulda done in tough situations. . . . According to the grade six students it was an awesome presentation.”

Notices

Bridges: Student Speakers for Global Awareness is a free volunteer student-speaker program, organized by the University of Alberta International Centre, to provide a resource to teachers and give international students a chance to share their knowledge about their culture and interests. For more information on Bridges or to book a speaker, contact the International Centre at (780) 492-2692 (tel) or (780) 492-1134 (fax). Request forms can be completed and submitted electronically from the Web site <www.international.ualberta.ca/FSSP/FSSPbridgesrequest.htm>.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has released a ***Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence***. While SACS does not agree with all of the recommendations, the guide does contain important information. In particular, SACS does not believe that “pre-established consequences for rule violations should be applied consistently” but rather that individual circumstances, the pro-social learning value of the consequences and students’ rights to due process must always be considered. The guide is available from the IACP’s Web site at <209.207.209.165/pubinfo/pubs/pslc/svindex.htm>.

Niska News is a newsletter 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. Achieving this goal requires the involvement of not just parents and teachers but also all the important adults in a young person’s life. This newsletter is designed to provide timely, up-to-date information about the project. For more information, contact the SACS office by phoning 447-9487 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta). Copying and distributing Niska News is permitted as long as the source is credited.

Attention Secondary School Classroom Teachers . . .

The ATA's Safe and Caring Schools Project



WORKSHOP FACILITATOR TRAINING for *Toward a Safe and Caring Secondary Curriculum—Approaches to Integration* will be offered by the ATA's Safe and Caring Schools project September 14-15, 2000, from 9 am to 3:30 pm, at Barnett House, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton. The \$95 registration fee includes two lunches and a materials package.

This two-day training workshop will prepare teachers to deliver the one-day workshop and follow-up sessions to their secondary colleagues. The workshop focuses on integrating violence prevention and character education into the secondary curriculum. It is designed to provide strategies for junior and senior high school teachers to integrate safe and caring principles with Alberta curriculum outcomes. Research indicates that a successful school violence program integrates safe and caring principles throughout the students' entire school experience and promotes the practice of these principles in the students' homes and communities.

Because this workshop requires two facilitators, we encourage schools to send two teachers to the training. Candidates for this workshop must be experienced, certificated teachers with exceptional teaching skills, an excellent knowledge of the secondary curriculum and proficiency in facilitating adult workshops and demonstrating leadership with their colleagues. **A letter of reference from each teacher's principal or superintendent is required. Please bring your curriculum guides to the workshop.**

To register:

Please register by contacting Sue Sheffield at

Tel: (780) 447-9487 or 1-800-232-7208

Fax: (780) 455-6481

Email: <sacs@teachers.ab.ca>

Send your \$95 registration fee to

Sue Sheffield
Safe and Caring Schools Project
The Alberta Teachers' Association
11010 142 Street NW
Edmonton AB
T5N 2R1

Please register by September 8, 2000

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE



November 23 – 25, 2000
Shaw Conference Centre / Westin
Edmonton, Alberta
<http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/safeschools>

Featured Sessions

Safe and Caring Schools in Alberta
Safe and Caring Curriculum
Developing Respect and Responsibility
Teaching Social Skills
Building Self-Esteem
Reclaiming Youth
Bully Proofing Your School
Racism/Harassment
School-Police Partnerships
Family Violence
Media Awareness
Over 130 sessions to choose from!

Featured Speakers

Scott Larson – Reclaiming Youth
Rev. Dale Lang – State of Our Society
Roger Johnson – Conflict Resolution
Hill Walker – Social Skills and Early Intervention
Barbara Coloroso – Kids Are Worth It!
Jim Coombs – Positive Choices
Brenda Sautner – Building Safe and Caring Schools
Vicki Mather – ATA's Safe and Caring Project
Dean McMullen – Supporting Safe & Caring Schools
Staff Sergeant Darren Eastcott – Youth Crime
Eric Johnson – From Tragedy to Triumph!
Irene MacDonald – Student Code of Conduct

Pre-conference Sessions

Thursday, November 23, 2000 — 9:00 to 4:30 p.m.

1. Legislation, Policy and Governance
2. Curriculum ECS-6
3. Secondary Curriculum
4. Classroom Management
5. Community Facilitator Training
6. Conflict Resolution and Mediation Training

Pre-registration and additional fee required to attend one of the six pre-conference sessions)

Conference Fees

Pre-conference session \$150
Conference Fee \$170
(does not include pre-conference workshop)
Group rates:
6 – 10 per group \$150
11 or more \$140
After November 1, 2000 add \$40 late fee

For More Information Contact Brenda Sautner:
bsautner@netcom.ca
bsautner@epsb.edmonton.ab.ca
Phone: (780) 434-8418 Fax: (780) 432-5998

Conference Information Available at:
<http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/safeschools>



Safe and Caring Schools and Communities Conference 2000 – Partners