

Connecting Through Your Classroom



Classroom Connections

Our Vision

Classroom Connections is the leading provider of community supported educational resources. We offer the most effective means for organizations to be involved in education and to demonstrate corporate social responsibility. We make a difference such that Canadian children are the best educated in the world.

Our Mission

Classroom Connections enhances the learning experience of our children by providing timely, effective learning resources, free of charge, to Canadian schools, and by facilitating a wider range of responsible community involvement in the education process.

Who We are and What We Do

Classroom Connections is a not-for-profit corporation with a mandate to support publicly funded education. We provide support by creating and delivering free classroom-ready learning resources to schools across Canada. We make these materials free by securing corporate sponsorship for each program we supply. By sponsoring a Classroom Connections program, companies gain recognition from educators, parents, and students for making a positive contribution to the education of Canadian youth.

Services and Benefits We Provide

To EDUCATORS, we offer:

- Free access to high-quality, contemporary business/education partnerships

- Free classroom-ready learning resources, community programs, and fundraising plans developed by Canadian educators
- On-line resources
- A customizable publication for parents, entitled *Family Connections*, to help schools foster and encourage parent involvement in the learning process

To STUDENTS, we offer:

- Engaging, interactive, up-to-date learning materials
- On-line information, activities, and links to great learning sites
- Free POP! Magazine (for students in grades 4-7), bursting with fascinating information on planet earth and stories about kids who are making a difference

To PARENTS, we offer:

- Free, top-quality, supplementary learning resources for their children's school
- Support and encouragement to become more involved in their children's learning by providing information about what is happening in the classroom
- Ideas for home-based activities that enhance learning and support responsible parenting

Classroom Connections believes that the best education system results when students, parents, educators, and the community work together. We support public education and equal access to learning resources. The Classroom Connections program is distributed to the school districts, for distribution to the individual schools. To receive more information about Classroom Connections programs, please call (416) 462-1242 or 1-888-882-8865 or log on to www.classroom-connections.com.



Empowering Youth in the Millennium and Beyond



Youth Empowerment 2000 is a one-day motivational event for Toronto area youth in Grade 10 taking place on November 7, 2000 at Toronto's Skydome. The aim of the conference is to increase self-esteem and motivation in teenagers and inspire youth to see beyond their present situation and recognize value in themselves and others. It will equip students with up-to-date information concerning future employment and career opportunities, and clearly identify the skills required to succeed in these areas. Information and resources will be available to help students live fully in the present and prepare for their future.

Program Guide

Students will receive a take home program guide at the conference that will reinforce the message of the event and encourage youth to incorporate the learnings into their lives. This guide will include a bio on each speaker, main points covered at the presentation, and ideas and worksheets. The guide will also include information and resources related to the purposes of the conference such as recommended reading, school to work programs, employment,



training, and post-secondary opportunities.

The main event of the conference will feature three motivational speakers:

- Mark Tewksbury: Canadian Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer
Art Burg: Motivational speaker and wheelchair athlete
Sharon Robinson: Jackie Robinson's daughter

Possibility Fair Booths will include:

- Information about careers and employment opportunities
- Recruiting for Jobs
- Promoting services - i.e. Kids Help Phone
- Promoting volunteer opportunities - i.e. Special Olympics
- Providing important information

Teaching Resources

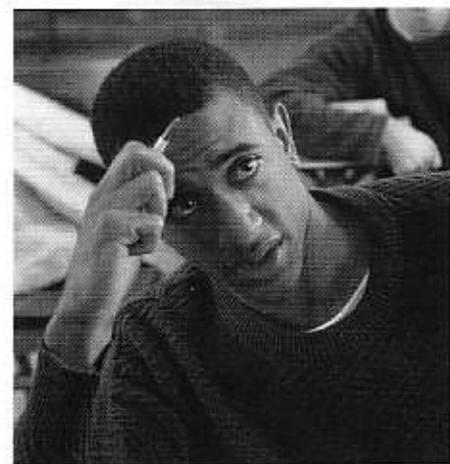
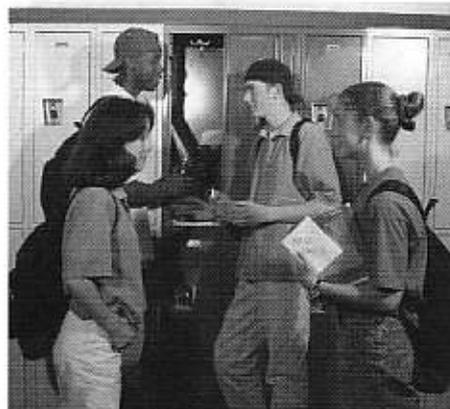
Both a preparation and follow-up Teacher's Guide will be provided to schools to assist teachers in linking the event with the "Choices Into Action" and "Business Studies" curriculum. Classroom Connections will work with organizations such as ICE and OSCA on the development of this material.

In School Programs

In order to make the benefits of the conference available to 2200 schools across Canada, a video of the event along with Event Programs and Teachers Guides will accompany the Classroom Connections Resource Kit in January. The conference will also help fund a school program that trains high school students to be volunteer readers

for elementary schools. The program will target youth with low self-esteem and below grade reading level. Frontier College will be involved in the development of the program. Any additional funds generated will be put towards education programs with objectives similar to the conference.

With the efforts of educators, students, parents and the private sector, Youth Empowerment 2000 will be the Conference of the Millennium to send a message across Canada that education is our first priority.



Following are some of the programs in the Classroom Connections Resource Kit. These programs are available through school boards that must register with Classroom Connections.

For more information, please call (416) 462-1242 or 1-888-882-8865 or log on to www.classroom-connections.com.

Immigration "Strangers Becoming Us"

Supported by Immigration Canada and the Toronto Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement, Strangers Becoming Us is a curriculum-based program designed to guide students to a greater understanding of multiculturalism, citizenship, and what it means to be a new

Canadian. Ten audio tapes provide students with the direct stories of immigrant adults and children sharing diverse experiences of becoming Canadians.

Activities include drawing family trees, examining discriminatory immigration policies of the past, and writing essays that express thoughts on Canada's principal accomplishments.

The Program Will:

- **EXPLORE** the contributions of different cultures to the Canadian mosaic.
- **EXAMINE** the impact of immigration on the demographic make-up of Canada, on neighbourhoods, schools, the arts, and national values.
- **CLARIFY** the difference between immigrants and refugees.
- **OUTLINE** how Canada selects immigrants.
- **DISCUSS** where immigrants come from, and why immigrants choose to come to Canada.
- **ANALYZE** where and how immigrants and refugees settle in Canada, including discussions of ethnic neighbourhoods versus ethnic ghettos.
- **QUESTION** current immigration and refugee policies.

Elementary and Secondary Program to follow in January, 2001.

Gift Of Life

The Gift of Life is a thoughtfully designed program linked to the curriculum study of the human body. This program places a focus on increasing students' awareness of the nature and purpose of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Through discussion and activities, students develop an understanding of how the transplantation of donated tissue and organs can save lives and ease suffering.

The Program will:

- **INTEGRATE** the study of the human body with the study of personal lives.
- **INTRODUCE** the subject of transplantations through the collected stories of children.
- **EXPLAIN** organ donation and transplantation procedures.
- **ENCOURAGE** family discussion of donation and transplantation, including its place within individual cultural and religious beliefs.

For more information, you may contact Organ Donation Ontario (O.D.O.)

Toll-free in Ontario only:

1-800-263-2833

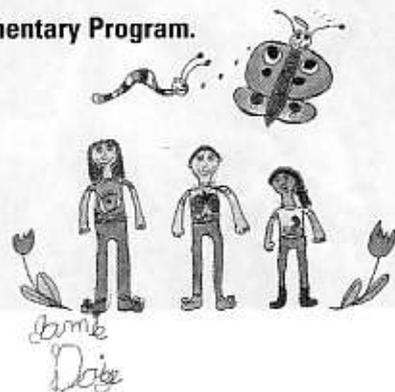
Toronto: (416) 921-1130

Fax: (416) 921-7313

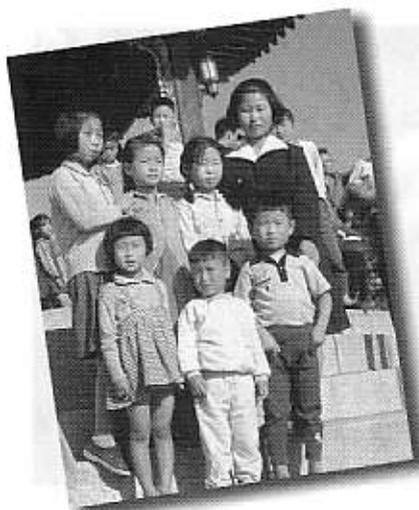
Web site: [www.](http://www.OrganDonationOntario.org)

[OrganDonationOntario.org](http://www.OrganDonationOntario.org)

Elementary Program.



Gift
Of
Life





Celebrating Diversity

This program encourages students to understand, value and celebrate the full spectrum of human diversity. Through interactive activities linked to both the Healthy Living curriculum and the Writing, Reading and Visual Communications curriculum, students examine media influences, stereotypes and individual accomplishments. This thought-provoking exploration culminates with students actively involved as advocates for people with disabilities by raising funds for Special Olympics and their school with the "Special Partners" school lunch program.

The Program will:

- **EXAMINE** concepts related to diversity based on the T.E.A.M approach- Together Everyone Achieves More.
- **IDENTIFY** the wide range of human similarities and differences.
- **CHALLENGE** attitudes and perceptions towards difference.

For more information please call the toll-free "Special Partners" Information Line at 1-888-590-0032, or log on to www.classroom-connections.com.

Elementary Program.

Reading Buddies

Essentially, a Reading Buddies program involves a group of teenagers reading one-on-one with a group of children the same day every week. They read books together, tell stories, play word games — anything to help the younger children become better readers.

Reading buddies work best when the



tutors are matched with children in grades 1 to 4. Some older students can benefit from this type of tutoring, however. The tutors and children meet as a group at the end of the school day in the elementary school's library. Depending upon the age of the younger child, they may meet together for 30 minutes for younger children or up to 60 minutes for older children. The program can run from 10 weeks to the entire school year depending upon the availability of tutors and the ability of the children and tutors to commit.

How does the program work?

- The tutors and children participate voluntarily in the program.
- Tutors provide character references from a teacher and the guidance counsellor at their school.
- Tutors receive the training and follow up support they need to best help their reading buddy.
- All activities take place under a teacher's supervision.
- Tutors and students work together in a positive, supportive environment.

Elementary and Secondary Program.

Education Partnerships

National Post's Education Partnership is a newspaper-based education program, developed and supported by teachers, parents, subscribers and corporate sponsors. This new and ongoing educational initiative features teaching guides, resource materials and are designed to be used in conjunction with the National Post newspaper.

The program's focus is on the utilization of the newspaper as an up-to-date information source and educational tool - a 'living textbook' that bridges the gap between the 'real-world' and the classroom - enriching the learning environment, stimulating creative thinking and helping develop better reading and writing skills.

The Education Partnership program and classroom newspapers are available to both elementary and secondary



schools across Canada, at a nominal fee - thanks to donations by National Post subscribers and corporate sponsors.

To find out more about our Education program, our new 'Business Studies' program for high schools, or to order delivery of classroom newspapers call:

1-877-780-POST (7678) Ext. 200 or look for us online in the education section of www.nationalpost.com.

Elementary and Secondary Program.