

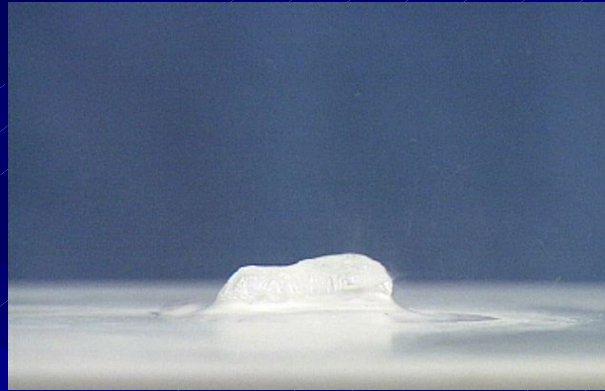
# School Role Participation Study and Strategies for Inclusive Education

## Information Night

### November 28, 2007



# Ice Breaker Activity – Getting To Know You



1. Identify one thing you think you may have in common with most of the people in the room.
2. Describe one thing about yourself that you think is unique to you.

# Research Study

## ■ Why We did the Study

- We do know that children who participate more in activities outside of school do better in life because they get to try on different roles
- We don't know much about children's roles in school
- We don't know much about the opportunities to engage in these roles (i.e., participation)

# How We did the Study

- 19 students from 6 elementary schools
- Interviewed students, parents, and teachers about expectations of students in school; opportunities available; things that help and things that do not help participation in these opportunities
- Began with Grade 7 and 8 in 2006/07 school year; Will follow until Grade 10.

# What We Have Found So Far

- Participation Opportunities
  - Competitive Sports take priority
  - The Y provides some after school clubs in some schools
  - Curriculum is not seen as participation

# School Role Participation Study

## ■ Enhancers

- Encouragement
- Motivation/Interest
- Skill/Ability

# School Role Participation Study

## ■ Limiters

- Skill/Ability
- Not enough Spaces
- Motivation/Interest

# Discuss

- How can we work together to:
  - Create more opportunities and/or help people to learn about the current opportunities that are available?
  - Decrease the limiters?
  - Increase the enhancers?

# Why We Partnered...

Inclusive Education For All – Guiding Principles in our Catholic Schools





## Inclusive Education For All – Guiding Principles

- **The Call to Family and Community**
  - The Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment through community
  - All students benefit from opportunities to give as well as to receive assistance and service
  - Relationships support the pursuit of the common good



# Inclusive Education For All – Guiding Principles

## ■ Diversity in Schools

- School cultures value differences and diversity through a spirit of understanding and acceptance
- The partnership among the home, school and parish/community allow for enriched learning



# Inclusive Education For All – Guiding Principles

## ■ The Neighbourhood School

- The neighbourhood school, where brothers, sisters and neighbours attend, is the heart of the community
- A sense of belonging to a community is a requisite for the development of self-esteem and self confidence
- In their neighbourhood, students have more opportunities to build meaningful and reciprocal relationships, which may develop into friendships and long lasting community connections
- Staff have a responsibility to support genuine friendship in schools by playing an active role in facilitating opportunities for relationships to develop

# Promising Strategies for Inclusion

- Diversity – Culture
- Effective Communication
- High Expectations for EVERY Student

# DIVERSITY

- Positive School Culture and Climate
  - Classroom opinion survey
- Positive Relationships
  - Teacher and classmates
- Promote Competence
  - Celebrate strengths
- Provide Opportunity
  - Roles

# EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

- Maintain open lines of communication between educators, parents, and students.
- Work together to determine what is in the best interest of the students.
- Families acknowledge teachers' efforts on behalf of their child
- Families goals are reflected in the annual goals on the student's IEP

# HIGH EXPECTATIONS

- Predictions are not made that student will never acquire certain knowledge or skills
- Students with disabilities have the same variety of social networks as students without disabilities (close friends, acquaintances, kids they share activities with)

# NEXT STEPS

- If not currently in the study, children and parents will be contacted shortly and be invited to participate
- If currently in the study, children and parents will be contacted during February-May 2008 to set up interview times

# NEXT STEPS (continued)

- Students, their parents, and their teachers will be interviewed to discuss opportunities for this year and how participation may have changed from last year
- Students will fill out some questionnaires during lunch hour at their schools.
- We will be sending out a newsletter with updates of our findings
- Next year, we will have another feedback session

# School Role Participation Study

Thank you for participating in the study and for being here tonight.

Your presence shows how much you care about the children in your life

???????Any questions???????

!!!!!!! Any comments!!!!!!!

# Your Feedback... Please!

I came expecting ...	I got ...
I value ...	I still need ...

THANK YOU!