

Fun in the snow launches Galt's new project

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Yesterday afternoon, Alexander Galt Regional High School launched its "Educational Gym Project" with an afternoon of fun in the snow for the entire school. "We organized the afternoon with group activities like relay races, cooperative games and our version of *The Amazing Race*," explained Galt's Athletic Director, Stephen Dunn on the eve of the event. "We're expecting 100% participation," he added.

For one half day each nine day cycle, physical activities will be planned for the entire school population, over and above the regular gym courses. The activities will be varied and sometimes take place away from the school at such places as nearby ski hills, ice rinks and pools. Occasionally, guest speakers will be invited to talk to the students about health and wellness issues.

"The whole project is a bit of a daunting task but we feel it's necessary for the growth of our students," mentioned Mr. Dunn.

A committee, including Galt's senior coaches, the Physical Education staff, a couple of teachers and the school's principal, Serge Beliveau, began working in September to design the new program. History teacher Morgan Quinn is the chair of the committee which recently expanded to include the student council president, one parent representative and the school nurse.

"The teachers are all on board and encouraged by this initiative. We feel it's a one-of-a-kind program and we hope to expand it throughout the school board," said Mr. Dunn. Bishop's University and Champlain College have agreed to be partners in the project, sharing some of their facilities with the high school.

The Educational Gym Project is funded through a partnership with the *fonds régional d'investissement jeunesse de l'Estrie* (frj).

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International Attention



photo provided by Sharron Priest

ETSB students from grades 4 to secondary level 3 all have laptops this year.

increases in reading and writing scores. A major survey of students, parents and teachers has indicated that acceptance of the program is widespread," commented Mr. Canuel. Although he admitted that the reduction in the drop-out rate (it went from 40% in 2004/05 to 32% in 2007 and another decrease is expected for 2008) is a result of "a combination of factors - like a recipe," the laptops have acted like a "type of catalyst."

"The biggest negative issue has always been the repairs, but this should improve with the design of more durable laptops," he added.

The Enhanced Learning Strategy project has also received international attention. The Ambassador of Uruguay, where about 200,000 laptops have been deployed to students, visited the region last year to learn about the project. "We sent a delegation from the school board to make recommendations. In the future we will have student and teacher exchanges with Uruguay," commented the director general.

A more recent invitation came from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. "We will be heading down there in the next week to assist them in the development of pedagogical software for the next generation of \$100 laptops," explained Mr. Canuel. MIT has developed laptops that

cost a little over \$100 each for people in developing countries.

Although the director general doesn't see any big changes to the Enhanced Learning Strategy program in the near future, he said: "We're trying to bring computers back to levels four and five at the secondary level."

Other projects being considered by the ETSB include setting up 'alternative' high schools for sixteen to eighteen year-olds in the region and initiatives aimed at improving the overall wellness of both students and school board employees.

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Snowmobiles stolen

last week to face charges of attempted murder, wearing a disguise, armed aggression and theft of a vehicle. The suspect was supposed to be staying at a halfway house at the time of the incident and may face more charges related to this. He remains behind bars.

There have been several

snowmobile thefts in the region recently. The snowmobiles are often parked at sugar camps or in garages. The police would like to remind people not to leave the snowmobile keys in the ignition or near the snowmobiles in obvious places like hanging on a hook.

Centre de santé et de services sociaux
de Memphremagog

**Stanstead service point
PUBLIC NOTICE**

PLEASE NOTE

**THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY
WALK-IN CLINIC**

AT THE STANSTEAD SERVICE POINT
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES :

- Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Please note that other services are available.

WE ARE SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE
CAUSED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

WANTED

Energy Guzzler

\$60 REWARD

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:

- X Refrigerator or freezer over 10 years old
- X 10 to 25 cubic feet in volume
- X Still working and plugged in

YOU'VE SPOTTED ONE OF THESE GUZZLERS IN YOUR HOME?

Did you know that a refrigerator over 10 years old consumes on average three times more energy than a more recent model?

To schedule an appointment, be sure to have your electricity bill handy. Save time by signing up online at www.recyc-frigo.com or call the RECYC-FRIGO squad at 1-877-493-7446 (49FRIGO).

We will quickly come and round up this menace FREE OF CHARGE, then dispose of it in the proper, environmentally friendly manner. You will receive a cheque for \$60 in the mail.

RECYC-FRIGO, a Hydro-Québec initiative, is administered by Consortium MRE Environnement. Hydro-Québec will send a cheque for \$60 to the owner of the appliance, once the appliance is collected. Limit of two appliances per household. Hydro-Québec reserves the right to terminate this program without notice. Some restrictions may apply.