

2018 Hooked on School Days end by highlighting rising graduation rates

Record Staff
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The 9th edition of Hooked on School Days came to a close this past weekend after bringing together hundreds of partners from all walks of life in more than 300 activities to encourage and motivate young people to persevere across the region. The series of events was organized by the Estrie Table of Interrelationship in Education (TECIE) and the Partners for Educational Success in Estrie Project (Projet PRÉE).

Drawing on the latest report from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which indicates that the rate of graduation of young Townshippers is increasing, organizers claim that their efforts have not been in vain.

According to the report, the proportion of students under the age of 20 who

obtain a first degree or a first qualification continues to grow in Québec and the Estrie. For the 2009 cohort, the graduation and qualification rate in Estrie increased from 73.0 per cent in 2015 to 74.4 per cent in 2016, the highest rate in 12 years.

"If we compare the rate of graduation and qualification of Estrie after 7 years, with that of all of Quebec, we can see that there is still some way to go, but we are almost there," said Josiane Bergeron, coordinator of Projet PRÉE. "In fact, Québec recorded a rate of 76.5 per cent, for the 2009 cohort in the public network. "By observing the cohort rates for 2009, 2010 and 2011, there is steady growth in Estrie. In addition, the graduation and qualification rate after five years for the 2009 cohort is 57.1 per cent, while it rises to 58.8 per cent for 2010 and 62.9 per cent for 2011,"

As part of their 2016-2020 strategic plan, the organizing groups have set a goal of reaching a graduation and qualification rate of 77 per cent by 2020; an achievable target according to Marie-France Bélanger and Christian Provencher, co-chairs of TECIE and Projet PRÉE.

"It is essential that Estrie partners continue to mobilize and consult each other so that even more young Townshippers can thrive and obtain a diploma," said Bélanger.

At the provincial level, as part of its Educational Success Policy, the Québec government has set a goal, by 2030, of increasing the proportion of students under the age of 20 who receive a first degree to 85 per cent for both sexes.



Sunnyside students are 'Hooked on School'

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photo Stanstead Journal

Sunnyside principal **Steve Weary** addressing the students during Tuesday's Hooked on School assembly.

Victoria Vanier Stanstead

Sunnyside Elementary School students and staff got together for a Hooked on School assembly on Tuesday morning. The kindergarten students made a presentation during the assembly of posters they had created showing what they would like to be when they are older. The grade 5/6 class, with help from the Phelps Helps Educational program, also made a presentation about the importance of school at the assembly.

Another important event that the school organized to highlight Hooked on School week was a visit to the school by students enrolled in the hairdressing school in Cowansville. "The students from Cowansville gave our students haircuts and spoke to them at the same time about their jobs and why it was important for them to stay in school. It's always a good way to have a conversation, while in a hairdresser's chair," said the school's principal, Steve Weary.

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Reading scores improving



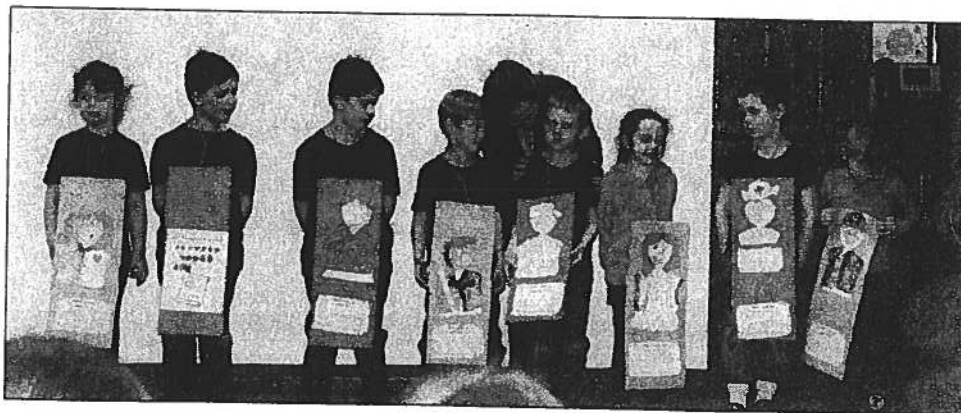
photos Stanstead Journal

The Sunnyside students and staff were joined by Phelps Aide Phelps Helps Executive Director **Katie Lowry** (sitting at right) at the Hooked on School assembly.

The school is also planning a visit to the school by RCMP officers who will talk to the students about what it's like to be a police officer and what they had to do to become one. "It's nice to have a week to highlight school perseverance, but school perseverance is an important part of education and happens all year long at school," added Mr. Weary.

School Perseverance Days are an opportunity to share school successes, and Sunnyside has a few. "One thing we have been really pushing at Sunnyside was to improve our reading scores and they have improved. Last year our students were reading in both languages at a regular level by the end of the year. Now we are working on improving our math scores. Our last year's grade six students are doing well in high school which is nice to see thanks to their perseverance and the timely help of Phelps Helps which is a super program," commented the principal.

The school also has an alternative program for children with learning disabilities. "They are able to learn important life skills in this new program and when they feel successful, they are happy to be at school."



Sunnyside's kindergarten students presenting their visions of what they would like to be when they grow up at the school's Hooked on School assembly on Tuesday.

School Boards in the Estrie come together to support Hooked on School Days

Magog

The four Estrie School Boards and their institutions, are joining voices in support of the Hooked on School Days (HSD) program. For the past 9 years, HSD has promoted the numerous actions taken throughout the Estrie, encouraging students young and old to persevere in achieving their goals; and 2018 will be no exception.

This year's theme "Your actions, a + in their success" highlights that all stakeholders in the community can support students as they strive to achieve their goal. Whether it be school boards, school principals, teachers, parents, employers or other members of the community, everyone has a role to play when it comes to school perseverance. Actions taken throughout a youth's life, make a real difference in their success and allow them to contribute to the future society.

The Estrie School Boards are working individually and collectively, to create milieus, environments and conditions that are favourable to learning and that stimulate perseverance. They are also working together to offer diverse career choices, in

both regular and vocational training, in order to respond to the interests of young people. Concomitance (24U) programs are a good example of this as they allow students to choose a subject that interests them, where they can both complete their secondary education and receive a vocational training diploma. The Partners for Educational Success in Estrie project (PRÉE), which oversees HSD in this region, is a fine example of cooperation on the part of the four school boards.

Finally, through the process of reflecting on and drafting of their Commitment to Success plan, each of the school boards in the region wants to develop and find solutions adapted to the realities in their territory in order to better support school perseverance. So, it is in this spirit that they will take into consideration their own observations as well as the results of the exclusive Léger survey conducted at the request of the Réseau des instances régionales de concertation sur la persévérance scolaire et la réussite éducative du Québec (IRCs).

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FORMATION EN AÉRONAUTIQUE À COWANSVILLE

Décollage réussi!



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Une cinquantaine d'inscriptions, un laboratoire bien équipé et des projets d'expansion. Le nouveau Programme de formation en aéronautique a démarré en force à l'école secondaire Massey-Vanier de Cowansville.

Depuis janvier, huit postes de simulation de vol et un avion PA-16 occupent un local adjacent à la bibliothèque, baptisé l'Aero Lab. Il sert aux cours offerts par l'organisme Aviation Connection, qui initie les élèves aux sciences, aux mathématiques, à l'ingénierie et aux métiers de l'aéronautique.

« C'est un programme très stimulant pour les jeunes, indique Catherine Tobenas, directrice générale d'Aviation Connection. On fait le lien entre la réalité et le virtuel. »

À raison de trois cours par semaine, le soir, les amateurs de vol apprennent le vocabulaire, la physique ainsi que les notions mécaniques liées à ce domaine. La formation est notamment offerte par Kahina Gagnon, pilote d'aéronef et instructrice de planeur.

D'abord destinée aux élèves de 3^e, 4^e et 5^e secondaire, qu'ils soient du secteur francophone ou anglophone, elle est aussi offerte deux midis par semaine, et en version plus légère, aux

élèves du 1^{er} cycle. Elle accueillera aussi bientôt un atelier sur la fabrication d'avions téléguidés.

« Le programme est toujours en évolution », dit M^{me} Tobenas, et Massey-Vanier en est l'« incubateur ». Aviation Connection souhaite l'implanter dans d'autres écoles secondaires : Granby et Sherbrooke sont dans sa mire.

ACCESSIBILITÉ

La formation de 170 heures, répartie sur trois ans, est accessible à tous et gratuite. Il s'agit d'une activité parascolaire financée par l'école secondaire, la Ville de Cowansville et la commission scolaire du Val-des-Cerfs.

« Les élèves ne deviendront pas des experts à construire des avions, mais ils vont réaliser les défis d'un expert en aviation et voir si ça les intéresse », avait dit le président fondateur d'Aviation Connection, Camil Dumont, à *La Voix de l'Est* en septembre dernier. D'ici 2026, plus de 31 681 emplois seront à pourvoir en aérospatiale, selon le Comité sectoriel de la main-d'œuvre en aérospatiale du Québec.



Grâce à des pilotes comme Kahina Gagnon (à gauche), les élèves apprennent les sciences, les mathématiques, l'ingénierie et les métiers liés à l'aéronautique.

— PHOTO FOURNIE PAR AVIATION CONNECTION

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