

Introduction to Connecting Generations

Rather than blurring the lines between school and community¹, *Connecting Generations* seeks to facilitate the creation of a “Third Space” where members of different generations find new identities in a shared space through dialogue. The seed for the program was planted and grew from witnessing these dialogues take place between adults and youth about things that matter to both, the challenges and rewards of human experience common to each of us and the underlying values to which we all aspire.

Something opens up as an effect of this dialectic, something that will not be contained within it, that cannot be returned to the two oppositional principles. And once it opens up, we're in a different space, we're making different presumptions and mobilizing emergent, unanticipated forms of historical agency.

Interview with cultural theorist Homi Bhabha by W.J.T. Mitchell. Artforum International Magazine v.33, n.7 (March,1995):80-84.

GISS

1) Peer2Peer training: November 2018-February 2019

Christa Campsall facilitated a training for a small group of student Peer2Peer counsellors, based on her My Guide Inside K-12 program for well-being.

As part of their training the students created a short P.S.A.:
<https://vimeo.com/319201620>

2 of the Peer2Peer students visited a Grade 7/8 classroom at Phoenix Elementary to give a workshop:



¹ SD 64 Achievement Contract 2009/2010

2) Francophone volunteers

3 Francophone community members attended GISS for mock job interviews Sept.2018-Jan. 2019

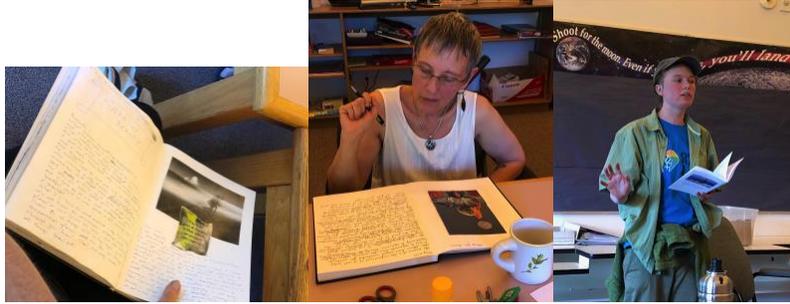
3) The GISS Writers' Group

The GISS Writers' Group met every Thursday after school. This year our regular group of participants included equal numbers of adults and youth, two of whom graduated from GISS several years ago. During the year 3 other GISS grads and former members of the group returned to join us for several meetings. With the support of the Salt Spring Arts Council's "Artist in the Classroom" program, our workshops have included writing and collaging or a combination of the two.



Weekly meetings are based on the practice of "Writing Alone Together"²: Writing Freely, Reading Aloud, Listening Deeply and Bearing Witness.

² Writing Alone Together: Journaling in a Circle of Women for Creativity, Compassion and Connection. Wendy Judith Cutler, Lynda Monk and Ahava Shira



3) Greenwoods Writing Project

Through a collaboration with Salt Spring Literacy and Greenwoods Eldercare facility, several interested students have connect with an elder, listening to and recording their stories, to be printed in a collection before the end of June.

4) ELL (English Language Learners)

3/4 volunteers join the ELL class every month for one or two “conversation Classes”, bringing their lunch to eat with the students and giving students opportunities to practice their conversational skills both informally and more formally with a jar of questions for discussion. It is hard to say who enjoys these conversations the most – youth or adults!



5) Community members as mentors

e.g. Grade 11 students in the French Immersion program engaged in Independent Study Projects:

Bee-keeping

Ocean plastic pollution

Graphic novel

Students interested in astronomy

SIMS

Conversation practice for French Immersion students

3 French-speaking volunteers visited the French Immersion classrooms regularly in order to give students the opportunity to practice reading and conversational skills.

Workshops

Robyn Thomas of the Stigma-free Society gave a presentation on “Overcoming Mental Health Challenges”.

SSE and FERNWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

My Guide Inside workshop series facilitated by Christa Campsall



OTHER INVOLVEMENTS

Home Words

The Home Words project, started 2 years ago, offering training to interested members of the community in facilitation of intergenerational writing groups. The project was a collaboration between SD 64 and the Salt Spring Arts Council. Among the populations that benefitted were 15-19 participants in a group who joined a “Women’s Journaling Circle”, including some who were clients of IWAV; a group of students living on Galiano; seniors who participated in a “Writing Retreat” Group at the Seniors Wellness Centre; a class of Phoenix Elementary school students and members of a church group.

In Home Words Phase 2, 6 community councilors/social workers and one teacher were trained to facilitate Writing Groups using the 4 practices of Writing

Alone Together. Home Words 2 was a partnership project of the Salt Spring Arts Council and the Yellow Submarine Drop-In Centre (Community Services).

A proposal for a new collaboration has been submitted by the Salt Spring Arts Council and the School District to the B.C. Arts Council for Home Words Phase 3 to begin in the Fall. Teachers in SD 64 will be offered workshops in Writing Alone Together as a journaling practice to both support themselves and their students.

Aboriginal Education Committee

Connecting Generations continues to participate on the SD 64 Aboriginal Education committee.

Connecting Generations would like to thank the following:

- SS Arts Council for 2 workshop series on “Write All About It: Reflections on Life and Self” and “Every Picture Tells a Story: Multi-media story telling”.
- GISS PAC for books for the Peer 2Peer Counselling program
- SSE PAC for books for My Guide Inside workshops
- Fernwood PAC for books for My Guide Inside workshops
- Salt Spring Foundation for “Home Words - Writing in Community Phase 2”
- V.I.H.A. for “Resilience for All” 2019/2020

In addition we would like to express our appreciation to:

- Opus Art Supplies in Victoria for their generous donation of art supplies and journals for the GISS Writing group, for the Home Words trainees and for the Peer Counsellors
- Country Grocer for their willingness and generosity in supplying refreshments for all of the above projects!