



November, 2009

Youth University offers adventurous learning programs that create **COMMUNITY**, support **CHARACTER** development, and inspire **CURIOSITY!**

Youth University Continues to Build Community through Tribes

Schools, classrooms and the people within them have long had the power to transform young lives. A classroom that encourages community is built upon caring relationships, positive expectations and opportunities for meaningful participation. Classroom community also encourages caring and trust among all members. Classrooms that build community have the power to transform young lives through positive youth development and successful learning environments (Bernard).



[Tribes Learning Communities](#) is a research-based process and active learning pedagogy that creates a culture that maximizes learning and human development. Tribes is based on three proven components of developing positive youth; caring relationships, positive expectations, and meaningful participation. The Tribes process develops students with valuable life-long skills of social competence, problem-solving, and a sense of purpose. As well, Tribes students are encouraged to believe in a bright future (Bernard).

The common denominator in the *Tribes* method and other community building practices such as those used by Youth University is small group processes. Small groups are the ideal vehicle for creating a caring community where each individual's unique strengths and abilities are valued. Youth University has always valued work in small groups, where students are given the opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways to a shared group goal. Shared goals and working towards achieving them together provide a sense of belonging and self efficacy for students. As Bonnie Bernard illustrates, the critical challenge for educators in the 21st century is not mastering a piece of technology or information. It lies in creating connectedness — in building schools that connect us to each other and to our shared web of life. *Tribes'* success in building classroom community and promoting positive youth development has been seen in Youth University programming and hundreds of schools in Ontario, Canada, North America and around the world.

Bernard, Bonnie (2005) *What is it about tribes? The Research-based components of the development process of tribes learning communities*. Windsor, CA: Centre Sources Systems.

Register your school for World Kids Colouring Day!

Plan a colouring event where pictures will be sold or auctioned to raise money for the Save the

Children "Rewrite the Future" campaign supporting school children in Columbia! To support the event, STAEDLER will send each participating school posters, buttons, and surprises for students. Also, the schools collecting the most donations will be awarded up to \$1500!

<http://www.world-kids-colouring-day-canada.com>

Consider Joining the Annual Free the Children 'WE DAY' in 2010

'We Day' the annual signature event by the not-for-profit organization *Free the Children*. This series of one-day events across Canada is a celebration of the Me to We philosophy of reaching out to help others, while engaging youth to be the change as they support the international development work of *Free The Children*.



The largest event of its kind, each 'We Day' event celebrates the power of young people to change the lives of others. Every year, the 'We Day' events feature a series of inspirational and motivational speeches by top leadership and social issues activists, speakers and entertainers.

Over the last two years, hundreds of schools and thousands of young people left the 'We Day' events with fresh inspiration and a renewed passion to create change for a better world. Inspire your students to spread the joy and success of your classroom community with children in their community and around the world.

<http://www.freethechildren.com/weday>

What is happening at Youth University?

Youth University Explores Access to Post Secondary Education

Youth University strives to promote a love for life long learning by creating engaging programs that create community, support character development and inspire curiosity. Our programs, delivered to school and community groups as well as enrichment for youth who have just finished grades 3-8, are created from sound theory and research and allow for learning through exploration and discovery. For many of our participants, their experience with Youth University is their first interaction with a post-secondary institution. Research shows that a child's first exposure to a post secondary institution greatly influences their decision making process when it comes time to select their post secondary path. Youth University is pleased to provide over 8000 youth with an engaging experience at Brock University each year.



We are interested in hearing from the community about the challenges and barriers in accessing post secondary education for youth in Niagara. We would like know what information, services and/or supports youth and parents would need to be best informed about post secondary choices. In order to hear the voice of the community we strongly urge individuals or groups to contact Youth University via email or telephone to arrange a conversation.

Ontario Classrooms Explore Community in the annual Youth University Essay and Poster Contest

Each Fall Youth University invites students in grades 5-8 from across Ontario to write an essay or create a poster that explores the characteristics of a classroom community where everyone is encouraged to be their best at the same time as they accomplish great things as a team. This year we received some amazing entries, all of which took an insightful look at the characteristics of classroom community. Take a look at the [2009 winning entries here](#). Recipients of the Grand Prize win a free community building program for their entire class with Youth University at Brock University. Other prizes include gift cards for the students and teachers to Best Buy and Chapters.

The 2011 Youth University Essay and Poster Contest theme will relate to Curiosity! Mark your

calendars and watch our website for details and the submission deadline next fall.

Come join us...

905.688.5550 x. 3120

Visit our website at:

brocku.ca/youthuniversity



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