



**Building Bridges Conference  
Hosted by Senator O'Connor's ESP Team**



150 grade eight students gathered at the North York Civic Centre on Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> for the Building Bridges Conference, lead by Juliana Lombardi and 15 ESP students from Senator O'Connor C.S.S. The ESP students created PowerPoint presentations and lead workshops on Cyber-Safety, Substance Abuse and Dating Violence. This team will follow up in a month with a Self-Esteem workshop for the students who attended.

**Students use music, stomp dancing and powerful words to deliver anti-bullying messages.**

A group of grade 12 students from a Lambton Kent DSB, wrote, choreographed and performed the play "Step Right Up" for grade 6-8 students. Through a series of vignettes, the students acted out a variety of bullying behaviour from the perspectives of the bullies, the victims and the bystanders. Many of the vignettes were based on the real-life experiences of the performers – as both bullies and victims. The play will be performed for over 5000 students throughout the board. So far, feedback has been excellent and kids are getting the message. "This gave me so many tips on how to notice bullying and how to stop it" said one student. "Bullying is bad and you shouldn't bully people," said another, adding next time, "I'm going to step up." (Story and quotes taken from The Chatham Daily News, "Stepping Up to Bullying, Dec.8.07).

**"Toronto Police swarmed Jarvis Collegiate today - not to nab criminals, but to shoot hoops. Officers from 51 Division joined a police vs. student basketball game as part of the Empowered Students Partnership (ESP) program."**

Full Story:  
<http://torontosun.com/News/TorontoAndGTA/2008/01/15/4773443-sun.html>

**"Students for Peace" initiative at Westview:** The ESP group has taken the organizational lead for this event which involves students from all schools in the family of schools. Staff Advisor Kelli Leizer reports: "The Students for Peace initiative has been great... This project has involved student reps from elementary, middle and secondary schools. ... Our students then acted as facilitators to generate discussion about violence in their community within a smaller group of the younger students. Each group brainstormed and were empowered by the stories that the students each told. Emery and CW Jefferys ESP students are also involved in the project. Our goal is to empower the students to start a campaign to stop the violence in their community."

**"Wonderfully fun, wonderfully simple, wonderfully informative"**

Quote from Presentation Evaluation

Check out this new resource for bullying:

**Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones**

[www.sticksandstonesmaybreakmybones.com](http://www.sticksandstonesmaybreakmybones.com)