



Three Schools Unite at Basketball Tournament

RY Unites Students and Faculty



On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, Boylen, Henry and King students were finally able to come together and celebrate their success in RY. The event took place during the after school program in the gymnasium of George S. Henry. Regesh Family and Child Services was honoured to partner with Versus Ltd., a company that designed a portable scoreboard/music player that is a hit among sport teams. CEO Phillip Ivanovski hosted the basketball tournament and generously donated one of his scoreboards to the winning team. The tournament wanted to highlight 4 key components.

- Healthy Eating and Exercise: emphasizing the importance of exercise and healthy eating habits.
- “Reconnecting”: To reconnect the students back to the school, making them proud to represent their own school.
- Self Esteem: Boost the participants’ self confidence.
- Group Bonding: Bringing the students together to unite as an RY group.

For the students who didn’t take part in the basketball tournament, dodge ball and dance routines were a hit in the smaller gym. From Nelson A. Boylen, Erica, Renee and Alyssa performed a high energy dance routine that got the crowd’s attention. And from George S. Henry, Matthew, Jamal, Sunny and Jonathan took first place in basketball.



Henry students enjoying fashion and photography in the ASP. Photo by Moses Kofi.

“It was cool getting to see the other kids who are taking RY at the other schools and knowing that they’re learning the same stuff. I really liked the food, too, it was healthy but still tasted good.” said a grade 11 student from King. A grade 11 student from Boylen commented: “I liked the basketball games. It was interesting when we met new people”. A Henry 9th grader said, “what I will remember the most about RY is the people and the basketball tournament”.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RY PROGRAM

Telephone Regesh: (416)495-8832
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www.regesh.com

“My favourite part of RY was meeting everyone for the first time. Even though I didn’t know anyone, as the weeks went by I made new friends and continued showing up to RY. I’m glad that I’m in this class/program; without it I don’t think I would be so far in life. It made me happy to go to school, or to have a great friend that makes me feel better about myself. I like RY and what it stands for.” Boylen, Grade 11 student.

From the Facilitators

The facilitators of RY share their thoughts on how their first year went...

Lindsey Tomlinson (RH King Academy): The air is warm, the flowers are blooming; it's finally summer once again and our first semester of RY has come to a close. Just as the trees are growing their leaves, I have had the opportunity to watch my students at King transform this past semester. We started off as a group of strangers and we have grown into the family we are now. Congratulations to the first round of RY graduates for their courage, support and positive attitude towards this new program. A special thank you to the staff at King for all their assistance and support in making this program such a success.

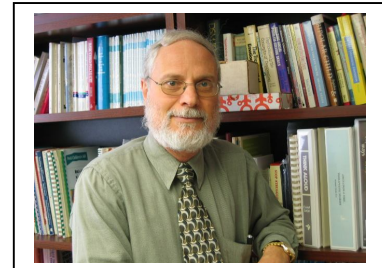
Brianne Murray (Nelson A. Boylen CI): I can still remember the first day of RY at Nelson A Boylen. We entered the classroom with a sense of excitement and yet an anticipation of the unknown. As the program progressed, there was strong evidence of group bonding and formation of interrelationships. I've seen remarkable gains in the students in terms of self esteem, school achievement and leadership initiative. Throughout the program we faced some challenges and struggles, but as a group we were able to overcome them and become stronger. It has been a privilege to watch these students grow into the amazing people they have always wanted to be. Congratulations first year RY students! We extend gratitude to Mr Easton, Ms Maharaj, Ms Matthews and Keren for their consistent support and belief in the students and the RY program.

Christina Eni (George S. Henry Academy): Watching the RY students at Henry transform into a closer image of the students and human beings they wish to be has been a truly amazing experience. Every day they made me laugh and smile, and RY has indeed become a sort of family, protecting and encouraging each other to work towards their goals and advocate for themselves. Congratulations to the first round of RY graduates! I am so proud of you and look forward to welcoming you back as mentors in September. Thank you to the staff and administration at GS Henry for their continued support of the RY program.



RY students from Henry enjoying a Rantors Game.

From the Executive



It is with awe and excitement that I wish Congratulations to the first RY graduating class. You outdid yourselves. Your success, motivation and desire to make this the best class it could be will inspire many students in the coming years. We set out to make this a big success and thanks to each of the graduates, this goal was achieved. On behalf of Regesh and its Board of Directors, we wish you a safe and good summer.

VOLUNTEERS

Without them it wouldn't be possible!

"I am so pleased to be a part of the pilot class for RY. I was able to see another side of my students and learn all the invisible things they may bring to their school world on a daily basis. Office visits were down and students tried their best to deal with their conflicts in and out of the group. Group rapport was hard to build at times, but we succeeded in the end. It was a family, a support system that existed within a tight network.- Ms Maharaj (Teacher at Nelson A. Boylen CI)

Thank you to Ariella, Keren. Graham, Ms.Cole, Ms. Maharaj, Ms.Matthews, Ms.Williams and Ms. Giagilitsis. We really appreciate all the hard work you have put into our program this past semester.

Most Memorable Moments of RY...

“‘Pass the Gravy Please’ was the name of the Midterm dinner held at King for the RY students. Lindsey made us a roast beef dinner to celebrate our midterms. We got to choose which vegetables we wanted. We even had cupcakes for dessert! It was pretty cool sitting down for a family meal together”. Gr. 11 King

“My most memorable time in RY is most definitely the time the whole group had a scavenger hunt. I will always treasure that moment because we just met each other in the group for the first time, not knowing each other and sharing personal information about each other.” Grade 11 Boylen

“I had a lot of problems coping before I started RY. Now I have a better grasp” Gr. 10 King
 “Shared Agenda on a Monday is always entertaining. You never know what you’ll hear!” Gr. 12 King

“I will remember coming into class, sitting in my seat and looking at each person one by one. It just put a smile on my face. RY became a strong family. We’re unbreakable.” Gr. 11 Henry

“I hope to continue my relationship skills with people like my mom and teachers and I hope to continue to get good grades and be the best that I can be.” Henry Gr. 9



King Students at their Midterm Dinner “Pass the Gravy”



Making silly videos at Nelson A. Boylen

✿ *“Most of us weren’t friends and we didn’t even know each other before we started RY. Now when we see each other in the halls we have a different kind of a relationship and a special connection. None of us are strangers anymore.” –Grade 12 King Student*

In Memoriam

Craig Trowhill



This edition of the Regesh Reconnecting Youth Newsletter is dedicated to the everlasting memory of Craig Trowhill

In his short life, Craig lived a life of terror, anger and challenges. Nevertheless, he learned to love others, loved helping youth at risk and teaching as a life coach. He had the strength of character to change a life of hardship into one of giving to others.

As a life coach or as a trainer of self defense or a friend, Craig would always put others before himself. He believed in the **“perspective of hope, possibility and forgiveness without judgment”**

He will be missed by the many that loved him.

Thank you to the following for their assistance in making this semester successful...



Southside Muay Tai and Submission, Kids Up Front Toronto, Harbord Bakery, Revolution MMA Fitness Toronto, Black-CAP, Yellow Brick House, Pizza Nova, Moses Kofi Photography, Louise Russo W.A.V.E. Foundation, KEYS, AYCE, Habitat for Humanity, Rana Sowadey, Sara Renaud, Shannon Ashukian, Triple City musicians: Travis Sewchan, Alexandra Soumalias and John Park.

Regesh Family & Child Services

✿ Acknowledges the generous grant from the **Federal Ministry of Public Safety** which makes it possible to provide the Reconnecting Youth Program within the TDSB schools.

