

# Examples of Experiential Education at Selwyn House, Crescent School and Royal St. George's School

## Crescent School (Toronto)

To find out more about these programs, contact Sheryl at [smurray@crescentschool.org](mailto:smurray@crescentschool.org).

### Lower School

- **Grade 3** - Three sister planting and First Nations history class paired with a garden project
- **Grade 4** - Ravine study and community advocacy project
- **Grade 5** - English – Letter Writing and choral singing at the Teddington and the Wexford Seniors Homes
- **Grade 6** - Casserole making for the Good Shepherd

### Middle School

#### Centre d'accueil héritage

Crescent boys will provide company *en français* for residents of Toronto's only Francophone seniors' home. They will play games, enjoy hot chocolate and get to know each other in the seniors' mother tongue.

#### Driftwood School

Based on Driftwood's needs, we will help their primary grade students with science and math work. Crescent boys will also be Right-to-Play trained, so that they are able to come up with fun games they can do with the Driftwood students.

#### Dundas Junior School

Crescent boys will pair up with two French immersion students in Grade 1 in this Dundas Junior School, whose population is largely made up of families living in subsidized housing.

#### Fudger House Seniors' Home

Crescent boys will learn about wheelchair etiquette and help seniors move around and lift their spirits at this LGBTQ+ friendly seniors' home.

#### Good Shepherd Centre

Crescent boys will collaborate with Good Shepherd to help feed homeless people who are too late to make the meals at the soup kitchen, by distributing sandwiches and socks to men on the streets.

#### Solar panels and Alternate Energy workshops with Crescent Town School

Crescent boys will work on solar panels, and teach the Grade 5 students at Crescent Town P.S. about Solar energy using hands on solar powered kits along with visits to the Kortright Centre.

**Holland Bloorview School**

Crescent boys will assist in this school for students who have cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, muscular dystrophy, amputation, epilepsy, spina bifida, cleft lip and palate, and a range of developmental disabilities including autism.

**Seniors' Active Learning Centre**

Crescent boys will do hands-on arts and crafts with residents of this seniors' home. Each week, they will bond by doing a different activity, such as painting, knitting and creative poetry writing.

**SPRINT Senior Care**

Crescent boys will play music at this seniors' home, whose residents have been affected by dementia and Alzheimer's.

**Sunny View Public School**

Sunny View is a TDSB school for children with severe disabilities or fragile health. It is important for these children to have "regular" peers around them and make "regular" friends. Crescent boys will learn tolerance, empathy, acceptance and how to be leaders.

**Waabanong Daycare**

Crescent boys will learn about the various Indigenous cultures by playing with the boys and girls at the First Nations Waabanong daycare in Scarborough. Our boys will build a playhouse for the children, incorporating expressions and images that are part of their culture, and it will be installed on the daycare property.

**Willow Park**

Crescent boys will partner with a Grade 2 class at Willow park for the year to create a series of wellness workshops and activities.

**Driftwood P.S.**

Drama connections for students in Grade 2, as the teachers collaborate on an air band unit that will be used to open Crescent's annual MS air band show.

**Feed it Forward Grocery Store**

Students work with food supplies destined for the garbage from large supermarket chains to create sauces, soups and other delicious meals with longer shelf lives.

**Newcomers Kitchen**

Students and the Syrian women from Newcomers kitchen share recipes and conversations. Improving conversational skills for our newcomers to the city, as well as increasing knowledge and awareness about Syria for our students.

## **Upper School**

### **Sunnyview Public School**

The technology class in collaboration with Sunny View PS creates gadgets and toys at the request of the mentally and physically challenged students and teachers at the school as their yearlong class project. Delivery day is always like Christmas.

### **New Circles Clothing Boutique**

Students volunteer at the clothing boutique all year, as well as organize and participate in many programs aimed at helping to integrate newcomers to our city. The adopt a family instead of a mentor group party is a BIG hit!

### **Time 4 Change**

Grade 11 Drama students prepare and perform a creative piece on youth homelessness in the Toronto subway system while they pan for subway tokens and spare change. The event is held annually in support of youth shelters.

### **Senior's Wish Art program**

Students create art with seniors on a weekly basis, make new friends and learn about dementia.

### **Highview Public School Science program with Grade 4 students**

Crescent School has a permanent place in the Grade 4 Science classes at Highview PS, where we work together to carry out experiments and come up with findings.

### **Good Shepherd**

Students volunteer in the kitchen, as well as sorting food and making beds.

### **Street Walk**

Students make meals and hand them out to people living in shelters and on the streets as an annual activity.

## Selwyn House School (Montreal)

To find out more about these programs, contact Courtney at [prieurc@selwyn.ca](mailto:prieurc@selwyn.ca).

### Elementary School

#### The Grade 5 Market "La 5e fabrique"

Grade 5 students worked hard to develop a market aimed at making an environmental difference. The boys successfully sold sustainable handmade products that shared characteristics relating to the theme of "recycling and reusing." Some of the products included: reusable bags (sewn by the boys), reusable beeswax food wrap, cookies in mason jars, soap, lip balm, whiteboard "erasers," rainbow crayon pucks, and fresh Selwyn House honey from the bees on our rooftop. This market was cross-curricular (math, English, French, Science, ERC) and bilingual. The boys advertised (commercials, posters, letters to parents) and labelled their products in both French and English, they determined the price point based off of production cost and the potential profit and developed a deeper understanding and appreciation of the importance of living a sustainable lifestyle. Our supportive Selwyn House community allowed us to raise a total of \$1,180, which the boys decided to donate to the Canadian Cancer Society in honour of our beloved Minna Shulman (Dean of Students).

### Middle School

#### Intensives Week

Grade 7 & 8 students took part in four day "intensive courses," experiential classes designed by the Middle School teachers in which students are encouraged to make connections between theory and practice in an environment that is engaging and stimulating. Intensive courses included outings and guest speakers, and often partnered with an outside organization (museum, charity or service organization). Students learned collaboratively and through self-reflection, producing a final product/performance/presentation to show their acquired knowledge. Some examples of intensive courses offered include: Broadcasting Bonanza, Masterchef: Soup and Bread, A Day in the Life of...Someone Who Uses a Wheelchair, and Découverte du Métro de Montréal et des Quartiers Environnants.

### Senior School

#### Photography Portraits with Contactivity

In Grade 9, the photography class partnered with Contactivity Centre, a local community centre for active seniors. Students learned the skills of portrait photography by interviewing and capturing wonderful photos of the seniors. The project culminated in a lunch for the seniors at Selwyn House and a viewing of their finished work as a photo exhibition.

**Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)** - In Grade 10, students participated in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) project which is done in French class in teams. Students research a local, social service, grassroots charity. After visiting and volunteering at the charity, teams give

a 10-minute presentation in French to a panel of judges. The winning team receives \$5,000 to give to their charity.

**Linear Optimization and Fundraising for Charity** - In Grade 11, students learning linear optimization connected their learning to raising money for several charities. Students had to come up with realistic constraints on fundraiser sale items to determine the ideal number of items to sell to maximize revenue. The students then carried out their fundraisers and donated the funds to a charitable organization that they had selected, researched and in some cases visited.

## Royal St. George's College (Toronto)

To find out more about these programs, contact Emma at [etotten@rsgc.on.ca](mailto:etotten@rsgc.on.ca).

### Junior School

**Living Walls** - The grade 3s design and build their own living walls.

**Cooking Club** - Students participate in weekly cooking classes. (<https://www.eatlivetravelwrite.com>) The teacher who runs the club writes a blog about the cooking the boys do. She has even written a great cookbook for kids.

**Textiles Program** - Students are learning how to knit and sew. They are designing and creating their own projects.

**Litterati** - This is a club and a grade 5 project to map local litter. The students then decide what they would like to do about it. This year, they discovered an abundance of cigarette butts. They decided to write to local government to make suggestions for improvement.

**Living Library** - Students in grade 7 participate in a year long initiative to ask "good questions". The program culminates with a Living Library. We invite about 20 guests with a variety of different backgrounds. The students hear stories and ask questions in groups of 3 or 4.

**Homelessness and The Cost of Living STEAM Project** - Our grade 8s learn about creating budgets for their "futures". They then part in a workshop to learn about youth living on the street and their weekly budgets. This leads to the students designing a menu, shopping, cooking and serving a meal at a local meal program. As a school, we volunteer with this meal program on a weekly basis.

**Reading Buddies** - Students in grades 6 through 8 participate in a "big brother" reading buddies partnership with one of two local inner city schools. The learning definitely goes both ways. This program is linked to our Right to Play after school Leadership Program.

**Passion and Action Projects** - In grade 7, students spend the year learning about something that interests them. This project culminates with the creation or learning something new (ie. designing and building their own skateboard, learning how to play the guitar). In grade 8, students learn about issues of social justice. Focusing on local grassroots organizations, they participate in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. This involves researching and visiting local charities. They then advocate for the charity in the hopes they will be awarded a \$5000 grant.

## Senior School

**Entrepreneurship Club** - Students in grades 7 through 12 meet once a week to design and market products. They pitch their ideas to local entrepreneurs for feedback. For example, they have formulated and sold their own tea and coffee. They have started Spark, a dry cleaning business for students, staff and families to drop off their dry cleaning at school. It is then cleaned and returned to the school. Both businesses are doing well!

**Vermont Square Art Classes** - A group of students assist our art teacher in offering art classes to seniors at a local retirement home. While sharing stories, both the students and the seniors benefit from spending an hour being creative. (<http://seniorswishfoundation.com>)

**Day of Service** - One day each year, our senior school students travel with their advisor group to one of 32 charitable organizations to volunteer for the day. The goal is for students to be exposed to opportunities to volunteer within the city. We also aim to partner with the organizations in other ways throughout the year.

**Family Service Initiatives** - This is a newer initiative where we organize volunteer opportunities for families to come out in the evenings and on weekends. This has allowed for opportunities for younger students who may not otherwise be able to volunteer as well as for students to see their parents volunteering. This has led to good role modelling and has sparked dinner conversations. We have partnered with First Book Canada, Meals on Wheels, The Daily Bread Food Bank, Sunnybrook Veteran's Hospital, Friday Food Ministries, Habitat for Humanity and Our Place Community of Hope. Families have sorted food, cooked meals, delivered meals to seniors, planted flags for Remembrance Day, visited with Veterans' and helped with the building of homes.

**Community Garden** - Over several years, our environment club has built 6 garden beds and installed a rain barrel. Each year, they plant root vegetables which they harvest in the fall. The vegetables are used by the Junior School cooking club. More recently, we have partnered with two community groups who use the garden beds over the summer.

**A Collaborative Theatre Class between Junior and Senior School Students** - The balance between competition and cooperation in the kinetic world of boys' learning is challenging. Imagine a drama with two characters claiming one chair. Both exit with dignity. Add the basics of a three-step physical gag, a narrative pattern, and authentic characters, and the distinction between collaborative performers and combative roles becomes clear. (Friday Workshop - 12:30pm)