

Ms. Annie Grenier:

I wanted to write this short note in response to this past week, during which I was one of the chaperone/escorts for some of the students that attended the Snowfest/Hip Hop leadership training in Puvirnituk.

I was involved in the first program in Kangiqsualujjuaq last April and have seen the work of the Blueprint team, as well as that of Judy and Anna. I cannot put into words my appreciation for the quality of this program and the people who are involved. I have seen first hand the positive impact the workshops, dance practice sessions and informal time spent with the Blueprint members has had on my students and am very excited to see how this really touches their physical, emotional and social health. They are challenged physically- to push their bodies to their limits from the warm ups, dance practices and skill development. They are challenged emotionally- to be attune to their feelings, thoughts, beliefs and also for the emotional needs of other people around them. This was a very big part of the Leadership training sessions- understanding the necessary thought processes and skills of a leader (that they in most cases already inherently possess) and developing them further through activities and role play. They are challenged socially- to work with others and negotiate roles in a team setting. They learn and are constantly supported in the growth of their self- esteem and confidence regarding effective communication and decision making; both essential qualities of leaders.

This programs success always depends on different parties ALL doing there part and I feel that this past week was incredibly well run in that regard!!

Anna and Judy were extremely well-prepared and efficient in addressing the ongoing challenges that came up. As a chaperone and rep from Kangiqsualujjuaq, I felt very comfortable with the expectations on me and informed of the important information. They were very enjoyable to work with! Thanks!!!

Stephen “Buddha” has really excellent judgment in the creation of his team- everyone of his team members were caring, kind, respectful, talented, genuinely open people. They exemplified a maturity and sensitivity to the students that made them feel at ease and comfortable really challenging themselves to grow. It is clear that he has a great respect and appreciation for the Inuit and their culture and did an excellent job this past week in making the most of the time available, while still being flexible with the schedule to accommodate a funeral and a time of mourning after a death in the community. Thanks!!!

Judy and Maata were exceptionally welcoming and accommodating to the visiting students and chaperones. They worked MANY, MANY long hours assisting us with organizing an alternative meal plan(for 15 people), difficulties with housing, locating water trucks, answering questions, providing resources that we need, transporting us to and from the airport, helping us find everywhere that we needed to go for the festival, helping us solve logistical problems, opening their school and facilities to the group and being available even after the regular “quitting time” for ANYTHING and EVERYTHING that we needed! I cannot begin to express how much we were impressed by their commitment to making the project a BOOMING success despite the fact that they had their own work still on their plates, too! Thanks!!!

Thank you as well for supporting this program! It is one of the very special aspects of KSB that is really meeting students where they are and challenging them to grow. I am very confident that Nunavik’s future is in very good hands, as the next generation of energetic, responsible, creative leaders discover themselves, their culture, their strengths through programs like this!!

Sincerely,

Gillian Warner
Secondary Teacher
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