



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Thursday, November 17, 2011

‘Experiential Learning Week’ Returns at Bluewater District School Board

Chesley, ON – Bluewater District School Board celebrates ‘Experiential Learning Week’ from November 21 – 25, 2011. Now in its second year, the initiative was introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2010 to highlight and support hands-on learning programs that prepare students for success in the workforce.

There are a number of existing programs at Bluewater to help students make the transition from secondary school and connect with employers. These include the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs, and the Four County Labour Market Planning Board’s “Passport to Prosperity” program.

During ‘Experiential Learning Week’, several activities at Bluewater schools are being coordinated through “Passport to Prosperity”. Please see the attached list of events.

“The experiences students gain by learning from the experts helps them to create learning goals that lead to successful careers”, says Four County Labour Market Planning Board Executive Director Gemma Mendez-Smith.

“We are so fortunate to have partners like the Four County Labour Market Planning Board to assist us in making connections for our students. Connecting kids and employers, and sparking the interest in future career possibilities, is what Experiential Learning Week is all about”, says Bluewater’s Student Achievement Leader – Student Success Jean Stephenson.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Jean Stephenson
Student Achievement Leader – Student Success
Bluewater District School Board
519-363-2014, ext. 2110

Gemma Mendez-Smith
Executive Director
Four County Labour Market Planning Board
519-881-2725

Bluewater School Events for Experiential Learning Week – November 21 - 25, 2011

Monday, November 21

Kincardine District Secondary School

- Scheduled classroom visits to all Grade 10 Career Studies classes this week to promote Coop and the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs

Chesley District High School

- Field plowing for spring planting, Agriculture SHSM

Tuesday, November 22

Bruce Peninsula District School

- Ecology Day, field testing with Parks Canada at Cypress Lake, **all day**

Walkerton District Secondary School

- Guest speaker, Jana Tondu, speaks to Grade 10 Science classes and the SHSM Environmental class from **10:40-11:55 a.m.** on her research about the impact of climate change on the hydrology and aquatic ecology of thermokarst lakes
- all SHSM students to participate in Fire Extinguisher training certification

Wednesday, November 23

Georgian Bay Secondary School

- Tourism Career Fair, guest speakers and display booths from **10:20-11:35 a.m.** for Grade 10 students; continues over the lunch period for other interested students
- Culinary SHSM students to prepare a meal for presenters and exhibitors, in preparation for Regional Skills competition in March
- Skills Opportunity Showcase (SOS) Trailer on-site

Meaford Community School

- Tourism Career Fair for Grade 7 & 8 students from **2-3:15 p.m.**
- SOS Trailer on-site

Thursday, November 24

Grey Highlands Secondary School

- Guest speaker, Kelly Lantz, Botanical Design of Neustadt speaks to the Horticultural and Landscape Design SHSM class from **9:30-10:30 a.m.**

Friday, November 25

John Diefenbaker Secondary School (JDSS)

- SOS Trailer on-site **all day** to highlight careers in the Transportation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) SHSM programs; Career Study classes also to tour the SOS Trailer and photo opportunity with Ethan Bender, the winner of last year's logo design competition for the SOS Trailer