

# Engaging Student Leadership

Kim Gilhespy

Chris Wilson



# Kim Gilhespy

- PHE Teacher WRDSB
- OELC Course Director
- ETFO Distinguished Teacher Award Winner
- CIRA Rising Professional Award Winner
- PHE Canada Champion of the Month



# Chris Wilson

- PHE Teacher for 31 years
- CIRA Ontario President
- OELC Course Director
- Author
- Presenter
- PHE Canada: 2019 PHE Award for Teacher Excellence in Physical Education



# In this webinar...

What leadership is and why engage students

Athletic Crew application, try out process, and meeting organization

Components of leadership

Leadership Development Activities (LDAs) and games

Let Them Shine

Looking toward Fall 2020

# Clemens Mill Public School

Cambridge, ON (WRDSB)

800 K-8 students and staff



# Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (OELC)

Orillia, Ontario

up to 220 leaders on site

- Intermediate Athletics
- SPARC - Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation



# Question #1



## What area of education do you represent?

- Primary/Junior (K-3:4-6)
- Intermediate (7-8)
- Senior (9-12)
- Post Secondary
- Other (please comment on your role/assignment)

# What is LEADERSHIP?

Being a role model to others while influencing and motivating them towards achieving a common goal.



group dynamics  
effective  
positive  
mentoring  
experience  
motivate  
problem solving  
communication  
energy  
develop  
VISION  
leadership  
conflict resolution  
learn  
help  
achieve  
change  
group success  
team work  
leading  
mission  
team building



# Leaders are not born, they are grown

## Great leaders want to:

Be agents of change, they seek to improve things

Rally people to a better vision

Make connections to people

Put people and the common good first



Paradigm of Leadership	
NOT THIS	BUT THIS
Leadership is for the few	Everyone can be a leader

# Why engage students in leadership?

## Benefits for school



- To make a difference in the school and community
- Increase school spirit (better behaviour, better attendance)
- Contribute to positive school culture (role model)
- Give students voice
- Run intramurals program
- Prepare and perform announcements
- Leaders available when needed

## Benefits for student



- Learn qualities and skills of good leaders
- Learn to take a stand
- Prepare them for high school, job (resume prep)
- Increase confidence
- Increased ownership of student life (take pride in bettering their school)
- Sense of good purpose, give value

## Question #2



**What is your level of experience with leadership?**

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Pro

# The 20 Dollar Bill Experiment

1. Take a \$20 bill.
2. Fold the bill up as many times as you can.
3. Squeeze it tight. Squish it. Try to destroy it.
4. Who would like to have this bill? Why?

## Debrief questions:

How does this demonstration affect our understanding of other people who we have to work with as a team?

How can you relate this message to working together as a team?



# Types of Student Leadership Groups

**Athletic Crew** - focus on intramurals, playdays, wellness initiatives, spirit, athletic events

**Student Council** - focus on fundraising, school spirit

**Arts Council** - focus on musicals, talent shows, art shows

**Global Issues** - focus on special causes, Me to We initiatives, local and global projects

**Eco-Team** - focus on environmental causes, recycling/compost promotion, Spring clean up

**Playground Activity Leaders in Schools** (PALS) - focus on physical recess activities for Juniors

**Classroom** - focus on taking smaller leadership roles in the classroom

# Clemens Mill Athletic Crew

What is does?

**Athletic Crew** - a group of students that will show leadership in a variety of activities.

- Plan and run **intramurals** for intermediates, juniors, and primaries.
- Organize and lead **spirit days** (small group and large group).
- Help **referee** or **score keep** at a variety of games/activities.
- **Role model** fun, spirit, and appropriate behaviour at school.



What we expect

Our **Athletic Crew** leaders to demonstrate **leadership** (words and actions):

- **Initiative** → take action before being asked, see and do where help is needed
- **Responsibility** → attend AC activities, balance school life, make good choices
- **Challenge** themselves → take on different roles, set SMART goals and work towards achieving them
- **Positive Role Model** → act in a manner that supports a positive and inclusive school environment (on AC and in the classroom), follow school expectations

# Athletic Council Application

**Athletic Crew** is looking for leaders who can answer 'yes' to all the following:

- Yes No → I will bring **energy** and **enthusiasm**.
- Yes No → I will always **dress up** and 'go big' on spirit days.
- Yes No → I will show **initiative** and seek opportunities to help others.
- Yes No → I will be **organized** and manage my time well.
- Yes No → I will **speak** in front of small groups, large groups, the school.
- Yes No → I will **collaborate** really well with peers and teachers.



## ATHLETIC CREW (AC) Application Form: 2020-2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ **Due: Wednesday, Sept 11**

**Athletic Crew** students organize and lead school activities such as:

- **Intramurals** → nutrition break activities for intermediates, juniors, primaries
- **Spirit Days** → dress-up activity days that cover a variety of themes
- **Score Keep/Lines** → assist coaches at home games (volleyball, basketball)
- **Celebrations/Recognitions** → support other school groups, clubs and initiatives

**Athletic Crew** wants students who demonstrate **leadership** (words and actions):

- **Initiative** → take action before being asked, see and do where help is needed
- **Responsibility** → attend AC activities, balance school life, make good choices
- **Challenge** themselves → take on different roles, set goals and work towards them
- **Positive Role Model** → act in a manner that supports a positive and inclusive school environment (on AC and in the classroom), follow school expectations

**Athletic Crew** is looking for leaders who can answer 'yes' to all the following:

- Yes No → I will bring **energy** and **enthusiasm**.
- Yes No → I will always **dress up** and 'go big' on spirit days.
- Yes No → I will show **initiative** and seek opportunities to help others.
- Yes No → I will be **organized** and manage my time well.
- Yes No → I will **speak** in front of small groups, large groups, the school.
- Yes No → I will **collaborate** really well with peers and teachers.

What are some activities/experiences, both at school and outside of school, where you have demonstrated **leadership**?

---

---

---

---

How does this example show YOU demonstrating leadership (i.e., roles, actions)?

---

---

---

---



# Application Questions



- What are some activities/experiences, both at school and outside of school, where you have demonstrated **leadership**?
- How does this example show YOU demonstrating leadership (i.e., roles, actions)?
- What **leadership** qualities will you bring to AC? (Talk about your **strengths** as a leader.)
- What **challenges** might you face on AC? How will you seek to overcome them?

**REMEMBER** → *You are a role model in our school and your words and actions should positively reflect the behaviour that is associated with being a leader.*

**Students who do not demonstrate appropriate behaviour will jeopardize their position on AC and could be asked to leave AC. This includes:**

- *missing AC duties (i.e., meetings, intramurals)*
- *not committing to AC responsibilities (i.e., announcements, sign-ups, ref'ing)*
- *negative behaviour and interactions with students and teachers*

What **leadership** qualities will you bring to AC? (Talk about your **strengths** as a leader.)

---

---

---

---

What **challenges** might you face on AC? How will you seek to overcome them?

---

---

---

---

**REMEMBER** → *You are a role model in our school and your words and actions should positively reflect the behaviour that is associated with being a leader.*

**Students who do not demonstrate appropriate behaviour will jeopardize their position on AC and could be asked to leave AC. This includes:**

- *missing AC duties (i.e., meetings, intramurals)*
- *not committing to AC responsibilities (i.e., announcements, sign-ups, ref'ing)*
- *negative behaviour and interactions with students and teachers*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes (made by AC Facilitators):

---

---

---

---

# Tryouts



**Tryout #1** - Random groups of students have 10 minutes to create a cheer, then perform it for the others. Looking for: teamwork, contributing ideas, socialization, leadership

**Tryout #2** - Each student is asked to present a game to the group. Looking for: voice, clear instructions, preparedness, assertiveness (self run, who goes next?)

**Tryout #3** - Student's choose a random topic and must speak for 30 seconds about it. Looking for: confidence, creativity, quick thinking, umms and ahhs.



**Fun and effort are encouraged and praised during tryouts. Scores out of 10 are given for the application and each task. Comments are made about each student.**

# Monthly Athletic Crew Plans



Spirit groups and intramural groups are formed within the AC.

Each week, we work on something different and facilitate new opportunities.

## October

*1st week - **Spirit** brainstorming/planning ideas to Dec 20. Bring Chromebooks. Getting the word out (advertising, announcements, skits).*

*2nd week - **Leadership qualities** (communication, trust), activities (spandex circle, gutter ball, slingshot, birth canal).*

*3rd week - **Intramural** planning to Dec 20. Spirit Day planning, Discuss - can we put a little spirit into the Character Trait assemblies (ask CG).*

*4th week - **Leadership skills** - Icebreaker, getting attention (voice, call and respond, whistle), refereeing/scoring for intramurals/school teams.*

*Reflection and celebration are encouraged and added into many/most weekly meetings.*

# Spirit Day Themes, Intramural Activities, and YF Games

Colour House Day  
Canada 150 Day  
National Parks Day  
Resolve To Be Well Day  
ER Day  
Twin Day  
Multicultural Day  
Creative Hair Day  
Wellness Wednesday  
Royal Day  
National Flag Day  
Choose your own Spirit Day Day\*  
Jersey Day  
Dot Day  
What Would Mr Wilson Wear? Day

Kunjin  
Circus  
Volleyball  
Sitting Volleyball  
Meditation  
Just Dance  
Basketball games  
Wellness activities  
Relays  
Parachute games  
Dodgeball  
Skipping  
Ultimate Frisbee  
Tchoukball  
Outside equipment sign out\*

Hunger Games, The Wonderful World of Wellness, Super Mario World

# Leadership Development Activity (LDA)

Typical Meeting Format for Leadership Development Activity (LDA) - 40 mins during Nutrition Break at school and approximately 1hr 15mins at OELC.

**GOAL:** To facilitate experiences and opportunities that are fun, engaging, and impactful to allow youth to grow into great leaders of tomorrow.

LDA's provide a safe, inclusive space where student leaders are encouraged to:

1. Leave their comfort zone.
2. Change their normal routine.
3. Be open to new ideas.
4. Are not afraid to try new things.
5. Value everyone's ideas and be open to them.



# Types of Leadership



- ★ **Autocratic** - authoritarian, one individual assumes control over the group, decisions, and goals. Group members have little to no input.



- ★ **Democratic** - participatory, where group member's ideas are valued and group discussion is honoured . Group members have input but the final decision is made by the leader.



- ★ **Laissez-faire** - “ to let go”, where the leader makes few decisions. All group members discuss and make the decisions without guidance or much involvement from the leader.

# Components of Leadership

Respect



Teamwork



Problem Solving



Trust



Communication



Creativity





# RESPECT



## What is it?

A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities, or achievements.

## Why is it important?

Respectful leaders are respected and trusted leaders. They are more resilient and better able to handle difficult situations.

## Games/activities that foster respect?

Twenty Dollar Bill (value), Who is missing? (knowing your team), *Don't Look at Me* (eye contact).

## Debrief questions?

*Why is it important to have eye contact with the people to whom you are communicating? How does eye contact make a more personal connection? What happens to the people that avoid eye contact?*



# TEAMWORK



## What is it?

The collaborative effort of a group to achieve a common goal.

## Why is it important?

From brainstorming, to creating a plan, to achieving a final outcome, teams have the combined skills and ideas of each individual, as well as the strengths of merged minds that can build off of each other. Teamwork is a prime opportunity for all members to learn.

## Games/activities that foster teamwork?

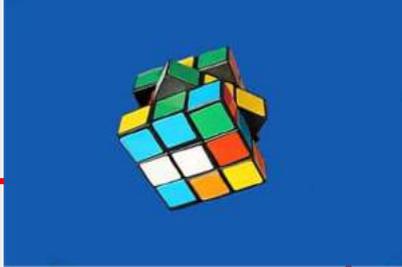
Whole-group Circular Juggling (organizing a plan), Sticks (delegation), *Suits Me* (learning about others).

## Debrief questions?

*Why is it important to know more than just surface information about your teammates?*



# PROBLEM SOLVING



## What is it?

The process of defining the problem, generating alternatives, selecting the best alternative, and implementing the solution. This is circular and may repeat many times before the best solution is reached.

## Why is it important?

Events and activities rarely run as expected. The ability to solve any issues and work on the fly is a critical skill. There are also many obstacles in the way that need problem solving skills to overcome.

## Games/activities that foster problem solving?

Polar Bears and Ice Holes (reading information), *How Many?* (*paying attention to details*).

## Debrief questions?

*Why is it important to pay attention to details? Why is it important that you not focus on one aspect while ignoring others?*



# TRUST



## What is it?

Confidence in the honesty and the integrity of another person or thing.

## Why is it important?

Increases the commitment to team goals. Allows team members to take chances when performing an activity or communicating any and all ideas, in a safe environment.

## Games/activities that foster trust?

Zipper/Trust falls (team support), Avoid The Obstacles (lack of sight), *Continuum* (assessing risk).

## Debrief questions?

*Why is it important to trust your teammates? What happens when you breach trust?  
How long does it take to build trust? How long does it take to lose trust?*





# COMMUNICATION

## What is it?

A process of sending and receiving information in different ways.

## Why is it important?

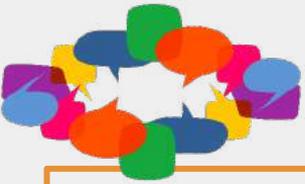
It is critical to be able to communicate on so many levels from organization, to planning and implementation.

## Games/activities that foster communication?

Toothbrush and Toothpaste (word consciousness), The Great Communicator (listening), *Silent Interview* (*non-verbal*).

## Debrief questions?

*How important is it to get the details correct in communication? How can you ensure proper communication? What happens when improper information is shared?*





# CREATIVITY



## What is it?

Using your imagination and/or creating original ideas.

## Why is it important?

Helps you to see things differently. Opens up possibilities to problem solve, try new things, inspire others, and achieve goals.

## Games/activities that foster creativity?

Sally's Green Glass Door (creative thinking), *Bandana* (engage creativity).

## Debrief questions?

*How does creative thinking help leadership?*

# LET THEM SHINE!

T-Shirts (school and OELC YFs)

Celebration parties, casual lunches, hangouts

Year end recognition, final day recognition

Team building days and leadership summits

Cards, certificates, gifts

Treats

References

*together we shine brighter*

# Leadership in other grades



## Grade 6

**Advantages:** You have your students all day

Teach leadership through other curricular areas

Get assessment/evaluation



Similar leadership activities/opportunities that will engage student leadership as well as create a positive classroom and school culture.

Terry Fox Assembly and/or Run, 20K Sock Day (We Be Us - Nick Foley), P.A.L.S.,

Kindness Crew - "Need a letter, Get a letter", hidden kindness cards around school

**Similar simple activities for other younger students can still develop LEADERSHIP!**

# Looking towards Fall 2020



## Going online

- Continue to use Google Classroom and Google Hangout for meeting planning and communication.
- Facilitate more online leadership opportunities for the Athletic Crew (similar to the activities in this slideshow).
- Use Google Hangout for each classroom to show spirit assemblies, etc.

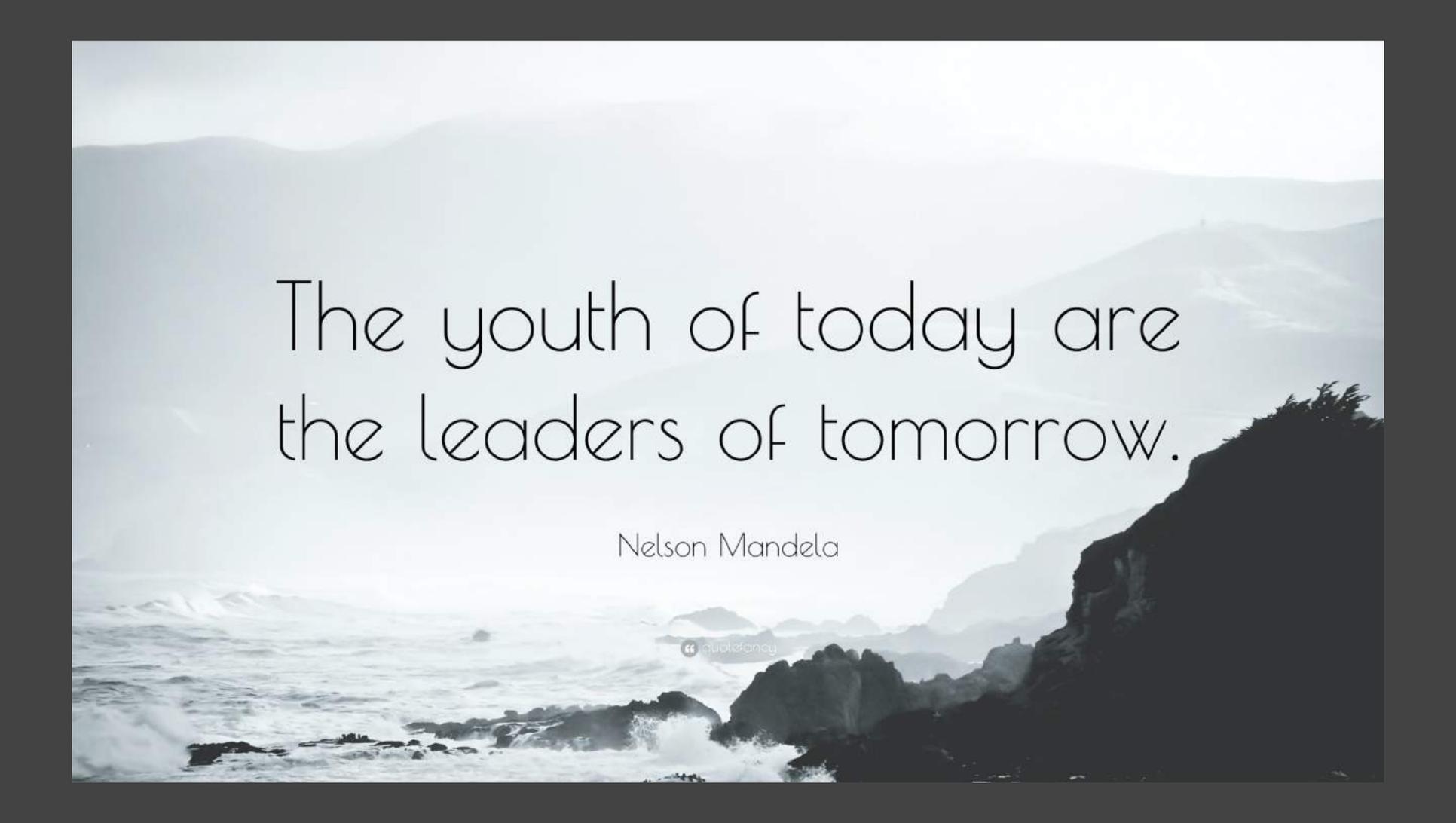
Be sure to have at least one leader in every intermediate class.

StartUp Week activities - Can we still do some? - social distance, - WWofW create virtual classroom with all teacher avatars link to own wellness activity done outside with own class

Spirit Days - keep it simple (dress up days, creative hair days), divisional activities (not whole school), minimal/no equipment, etc.

Independent intramural activities

Classroom teachers take photos and share to create school montage monthly (keep the connection)



The youth of today are  
the leaders of tomorrow.

Nelson Mandela

“ quoteancy

# Youth Leadership Organizations

OELC - Ontario Educational Leadership Centre (Grades 6 - 12)

YLCC - Youth Leadership Camps Canada (Elementary)

HOBY - Hugh O'Brian Youth leadership (Secondary)

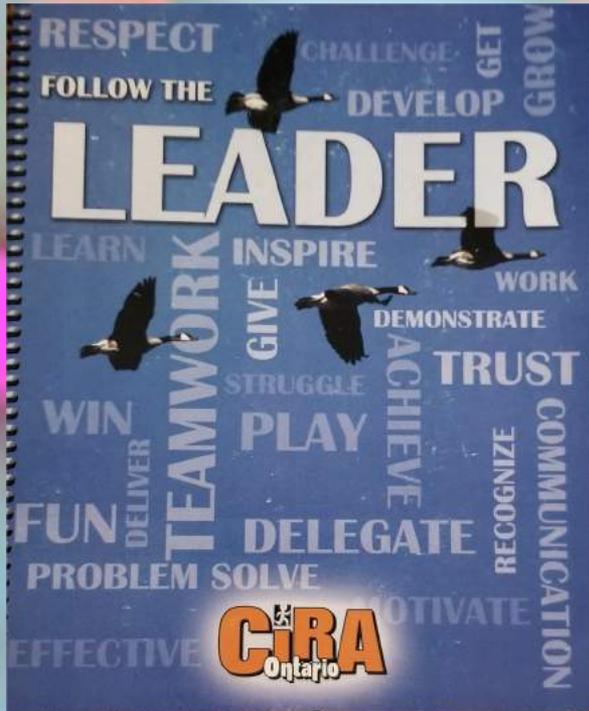
CSLA - Canadian Student Leadership Association

GSLs - Global Student Leadership Summit

CCSL - Canadian Conference on Student Leadership (Post Secondary)

# CIRA ONTARIO

Existing Resource



Future Resource

## TEAM BUILDING

By:

Kim Gilhespy  
Chris Wilson



**CIRA Ontario**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Kimberly Gilhespy**

226-606-7890

[kimberly\\_gilhespy@wrdsb.ca](mailto:kimberly_gilhespy@wrdsb.ca)

Twitter @gilhespykim

Instagram @kingilhespy

**Chris Wilson**

519-717-7053

[ciraontario.president@gmail.com](mailto:ciraontario.president@gmail.com)

Twitter @cwilson1224

Instagram @cjwilsonoelc.cira

<https://www.ciraontario.com/>  
[www.oelccaso.com](http://www.oelccaso.com)

# QUESTIONS?

