

EXEMPLARY TEACHING AWARD
FUTURE ACES BUILDS CHARACTER

Submitted by:

St. Jane Frances Catholic School

Project Leader: Miss Josephine Virgilio

Proposal Committee: Mr. Andrew Bressan
Mr. Richard Campbell
Mr. John Chow
Mrs. Bellamy Goodyear
Mr. Jamie Louis
Mr. Marco Pitto

Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation:

Ms. Bernice Carnegie, *Executive Director*
Ms. Vivian Shapiro, *Education Director*

Exemplary Practice Teaching Award – Toronto Catholic District School Board

- 1. Provide a detailed description of the project/program. Describe the project/program. Describe the project/program's goals, strategies, implementation, timeline, and outcomes. Please summarize current research which supports the project. Attach a bibliography if available.**

Description of Project:

The Future Aces Committee at Saint Jane Frances Catholic Elementary School has incorporated Future Aces Initiatives into its Code of Conduct and Character Education and Safe Schools Program beginning September 3, 2008.

In conjunction with the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation, we are working together in order to foster harmony and good citizenship deterring bullying, racism, violence and cultural intolerance at our school.

Saint Jane Frances Catholic Elementary School has incorporated into the school community a Future Aces Code of Conduct based on the Future Aces Philosophy supporting the Ontario Ministry mandate on Character Education and Safe Schools Programs. Future Aces has been used an effective tool for promoting positive and safe school environments for more than thirty years and currently enriches the lives of more than 70,000 students annually in the GTA.

What is Future Aces?

The Herbert Carnegie Future Aces Foundation is a non-for profit, registered, charitable organization established in 1987 by Herbert, Audrey and Bernice Carnegie.

Foundation's Mission:

To inspire and assist youth and adults to become the best that they can be as responsible, respectful, peaceful, confident and caring citizens.

Foundation's Mandate:

To partner with schools, community organizations and corporations to reinforce and enhance character development initiatives fostering proactive approaches that promote harmony and as a result deter bullying, violence, racism and cultural intolerance.

Outreach:

The Future Aces Educational Team at Saint Jane Frances Catholic Elementary School has provided motivational presentation for students and training for staff on Friday September 26, 2008 and Wednesday October 15, 2008.

The Future Aces Philosophy:

Herbert Carnegie wrote his 'timely but timeless' Future Aces Philosophy fifty two years ago. It has become a model for behavior based on teachable skills with a meaningful message that encourages responsible citizenship. It challenges the individual to a continuous process of learning about one's self and one's relations with others. In striving to become Future Aces, people learn attitudes and approaches that they can build upon throughout their lives. Living up to the Future Aces Philosophy means constantly seeking ways to improve by taking responsibility for who you are, what you do and how your behavior affects other people.



Future Aces

Future Aces Builds Character

A

I will develop a positive **Attitude** toward all people and toward my work.

I will develop my talents and **Ability** in order that I may be helpful to society.

I will take **Action** with *integrity*.

I will **Achieve** my goal with *honest* and sincere initiative.

C

I will **Cooperate** with and *respect* others by seeking understanding with all people, regardless of race, gender or beliefs.

I will demonstrate **Courage**, standing up for what is right and speaking out against what is wrong.

I will display **Confidence** in all my actions without being arrogant.

E

I will show **Empathy** and *consideration* by advancing the values that are important to me and others.

I will set a good **Example** to others, taking *responsibility* for my actions.

I will acquire the best **Education** within my capability.

S

I will be of **Service** to others.

I will practice good **Sportsmanship** in all my decisions, demonstrating fair play to all.

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Herbert H. Carnegie, M.C., O.Ont., O.M.C., LL.D. (Hon) and Bernice Y. Carnegie

www.futureaces.org

The Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation has authorized the replication of the Future Aces Philosophy and information about its initiatives in support of in this application.

Who created Future Aces?

Herbert Carnegie was born in Toronto, in 1919 following the emigration of his parents from Jamaica in 1912. Married to his wife Audrey for 63 years, he resided in North York where he is known as a local hero and community icon.

Mr. Carnegie became a talented athlete who enjoyed an outstanding career in the Ontario Hockey Association and Quebec Hockey Leagues. Denied an opportunity to pursue his dream in the NHL because of racism, he consciously developed ways to make a positive difference in society.

Mr. Carnegie's vision of justice, fair play and equity of opportunity produced a remarkable code of ethics, the Future Aces Creed, that is now used in schools throughout Ontario and beyond.

Strategies/Implementation

With effective application, students begin to internalize this positive message moving them towards more ethical and respectful behavior, improved grades and a desire to become better citizens. The following steps help to ensure successful implementation.

1. **Staff workshops** are essential to understand the background and initial steps in implementing this positive approach for handling daily challenges.
2. A school-wide **kick-off presentation** introduces students to Future Aces and helps inspire the positive behaviour change schools are trying to effect.
3. A **parent presentation** reinforces the school's desire to assist their children and encourage their support through home use of Future Aces.
4. An **in-service** with a committee of enthusiastic staff and student leaders provides a format for developing a plan of action for a more positive school environment.
5. The **Summer Institute** held annually in August gives teachers an opportunity to share ideas and learn about new resources and initiatives to keep Future Aces thriving in their respective schools.

How has the Future Aces Philosophy Helped SJF?

As a Student:

- Improves academics
- Teaches responsibility
- Builds self-esteem and self-confidence
- Develops self-respect as well as respect for others;
- Promotes respect for diversity;
- Develops polite manners;
- Helps students resolve conflicts peacefully;
- Encourages students to be good citizens;
- Develops positive attitudes in sports activities;
- Develops a sense of belonging;
- Learns to take control of their lives;
- Develops a sense of achievement through small successes.

As an Administrator:

- Creates a peaceful, welcoming learning environment for all;
- Sets high expectations for all students;
- Establishes clearly stated and agreed upon goals;
- Promotes equitable treatment of all individuals;
- Supports Ministry of Education Curriculum Expectations and Toronto Catholic District Safe schools initiatives.
- Encourages parent and community involvement and support;
- Becomes an integral part of the life of the school, and supports the implementation of existing programs and Code of Conduct.

As a Teacher:

- Creates a happier and more harmonious classroom.
- Develops students' self-control and thus leads to improved student behavior;
- Helps students achieve academic success.
- Enhances students' self-esteem;
- Encourages parental involvement in their children's education.

As a Parent:

- Builds a more effective partnership between parents and the school e.g., provides a focus for parent-school consultations;
- Makes it easier for parents to learn how they can help their children succeed in school;
- Improves the quality of home life;
- Promotes consistent values and behavior for all family members;
- Provides a common framework and language for parents to discuss their children's achievements and needs with school staff.

Outcomes

Within our Saint Jane Frances Catholic Elementary School we have noticed a considerable decrease in incidences of bullying and school violence as compared to previous years (before the program was implemented). Both students and staff have noticed a remarkable difference in student attitude and behavior. For example, students are modeling the *Future Aces Creed* and exemplifying respectful student behavior on daily basis.

The project leader has received commendation letters from parents, students and staff about the success of the Future Aces program.

Street signs have been designed and created by the project leader. For example, *Courage Avenue, Ability Lane* etc. It was very important for the project leader to create an ambience that reflected the Future Aces Creed.

As a follow-up, in January, 2009 students will be participating in a *Future Aces* classroom poster contest. Classes will be asked to design a mural based on TCDSB monthly themes: January – Courage, February -Love.

Students continue to strive to become a *Future Ace*. Many incentives including providing students with a monthly *Future Aces* certificate, a school year end luncheon celebration with Future Aces students who exemplified extraordinary citizenship, Catholicity and leadership responsibility within our school community.

Mini alerts and police tickets are handed out by primary/junior and intermediate teachers in order to reward students who have exemplified excellent citizenship and behavior.

Every morning on the public address system, our *Future Aces* student ambassadors read the *Future Aces* Creed in order to remind systems of their role as *Future Aces*.

Student Ambassadors have also created a *Future Aces* Corner in our monthly newsletters based on the Toronto Catholic District School boards monthly themes e.g. December charity.

2. How does the project/program align with the Board's System Priorities?

Vision of TCDSB

To provide students with the qualities they will require, our Vision of TCDSB is a school system that:

- is Christ-centered;
- is student focused;
- demonstrates a clear sense of purpose;
- is visibly and demonstrably Catholic;
- reflects empowering leadership;
- applies collaborative decision making;
- is innovative; and
- provides role models among all stakeholders for all these qualities.

The Future Aces Creed compliments the TDSB vision of developing Catholicity, justice, fair play and equity of opportunity.

How does Future Aces Benefit the Saint Jane Frances School Community?

- The Future Aces Creed is the model on which more than 170 schools across the GTA base their Character Development and Safe Schools programs.
- Future Aces is an effective proactive tool in assisting young people and their families to develop a healthier lifestyle.
- Our Education Initiatives develop good citizenship and positive daily life skills reducing incidences of inappropriate behavior such as bullying, racism, and cultural intolerance.
- The application of this powerful philosophy influences the lives of more than 70,000 students annually and adapts easily as a guideline for early childhood education centres recreational and sports initiatives, community organizations and corporations.

3. Description of involvement of other agencies, support personnel, universities, colleges Local community organizations, private sector, etc, if appropriate.

Current Major Partners & Program Specific Partners to Future Aces:

Toronto District School Board
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
TD Bank Financial Group
Investors Group
York Regional Police
Canadian Forces
The Argos Foundation

How can we work in partnership?

- Provide proactive approaches to help youth make positive lifestyle choices.
- Promote consistent values and behavior for all citizens.
- Encourage self-discipline and taking responsibility for one's actions.
- Unify the community by fostering programs that build self-esteem, confidence and caring.
- Respond to violence with constructive guidance and action.
- Establish a mutually beneficial long-term relationship with Future Aces.

4. Description of assessment and evaluation strategies focusing on student progress in the project /program.

At the start of the program, through educational workshops, staff and students participated by completing written surveys. A summary of results were conclusive and indicated that over 75% of the staff and students firmly believe that the Future Aces Philosophy and its initiatives have been a positive influence on our Saint Jane Frances Catholic Element school.

Also, the project leader continually has held meetings with our Future Aces Committee and Safe schools to initiate further ideas and developments with respect to the Future Aces implementation within our school community.

The project leader also continues to receive positive letters from parents, staff and students about how Future Aces has influenced positive changes at home and within the school.

5. Description of Strategies

Successful strategies Used to Communicate the Project

- **Street signs-** Ability Lane, Courage Avenue etcetera are some samples of how the project leader, Ms. Josephine Virgilio along with the Future Aces Committee and student ambassadors have decorated and created a conducive environment for positive change in terms of implementing the Future Aces Creed and philosophy.
- **Staff and parents educational workshops** – Informal surveys and conversations with parents would indicate that the Future Aces Creed has been a positive influence on the Saint Jane Frances Catholic Elementary School.
- **Mini-alert tickets** provide students with positive reinforcement for good citizenship, Catholicity and modeling positive leadership qualities on a daily basis.

- **Student Ambassadors** at the start of the school day with daily announcements reinforcing the monthly themes of Catholicity (January- Courage, February –Love) along with being a responsible Future Ace.
- Every month, **Future Aces Student representatives** have written an article in our school newsletters based on the Toronto Catholic District School board themes (January- Courage etcetera).
- Students will be participating in a **Future Aces Poster** contests based on the theme of demonstrating Courage.
- **Speaker’s Series** has been successful in the past four years. Speakers within the community speak to our students about their career experiences, the importance of developing good citizenship and responsible leadership within the Saint Jane Frances School community. We have raised over \$800.00 over the school years to help with school funding etcetera. Guest speakers have included: Mr. Dwight Drummond (2004) City TV, Mr. JoJo Chintoh (2005), Mr. Spider Jones (2006), Mr. Michael Kuss/Spider Jones 2007,
- Mr. Hugh Burrill and Spider Jones. This year, our guest will include Ms. Dina Pigulese (Breakfast Television).
- The **Future Aces Ticket Program** is based on the **Future Aces Creed** and provides incentives to young people “Caught in the act” of living up to the Creed.
 - Historically tickets are issued by police for inappropriate behaviour.
 - This innovative program encourages police officers and community leaders to acknowledge youth who demonstrate good character.
 - Has gone region-wide with York Regional Police.

School System/Police

- Future Aces works with a variety of community partners of which the school system and regional police detachments are the most prominent.
- Initiatives such as the *Future Aces Positive Ticket Program*, character building initiatives and leadership conferences represent just a few of our joint initiatives.
- Our programs are targeted towards students across the GTA in anticipation of working with students nationally.
- York Regional Police Chief Armand LaBarge leads the way as a member of the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Board of Directors.
- Future Aces partners with a variety of school boards and their schools to deliver character building programs to its students.

Future Aces Awards Gala (May 27, 2009)

- 2009 Gala will be held at the Grand Baccus Ball Room in Toronto, Ontario.
- Prominent citizens recognized at ACES Awards Gala for Achievement, Courage, Education and Service.
- Reception networking with corporate and educational Future ACES
- Celebration of successes and achievements showing exemplary citizenship

Future Aces Scholarship Reception: (April 17, 2009)

Scholarships: Annually, the Foundation awards up to thirty students with a citizenship

Award and a one thousand dollar scholarship. Criteria for selection is based on Exemplary citizenship qualities and a need for financial assistance to further their educational goals. To date the Foundation has granted \$420,000 in scholarships.

6. Description of how the project/program could be replicated in other schools, sites and/or locations.

Mrs. Bernice Carnegie (www.futureaces.org) and the Future Aces Team would ensure the implementation process at the respective schools within the TCDSB.

Future Aces in the Schools: Implementation Process

**Summer Institute
Involvement in Special Elementary Project (ongoing, support, from Future Aces Education Team Member)**

Step One: Future Aces starting points at school

- a) school-wide student presentation
- b) staff training and implementation workshop.

Future Aces Staff/Student/Parent Planning Committee

Step Two:

Future Aces Exploration Activities
One-day Elementary Symposium

Step Three:

Future Aces Student Ambassador Group

Step Four:

Future Aces: Atmosphere Enhancement

Step Five:

Celebration for all Project Schools

Step Six

Review / Reflect / Evaluate / Celebrate School Successes