

Saturday S.M.I.L.E. INSIGHT

Victoria, Christina and Ewan

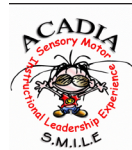
For some Acadia students, this semester marks the last of their S.M.I.L.E. experience. As many long time instructors, directors and leaders prepare for graduation, they also have to prepare for their last moments at S.M.I.L.E. Many of these students have been partnered up

with the same participant for the duration of their years in S.M.I.L.E., and have developed strong relationships with their buddies. Others have had the chance to spend time with different buddies throughout the years. Fourth year student, Victoria, shares her favorite thing about the program; “When all the kids are arriving



and running in. It’s also cool to see how the kids progress.” Ewan, her buddy, says he enjoys the whole thing! Victoria has been working with Ewan for one year and her fellow instructor Christina has been with him for two. They say their funniest memory with him is when

FLASH BACK



THE ACADIA
S.M.I.L.E.
PROGRAM
<http://smile.acadiau.ca/>

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Director Message

The past two weeks have just been awesome! The leaders have done a great job planning and organizing activities each week. We’ve had both Olympic and Under the Sea theme days and each week the leaders come up with something new that is a hit with the participants. The instructors this semester have been outstanding in the goals they are setting but also making sure that both they and the kids just have fun! The Saturday roster is now up to 72 participants and it’s awesome to see each one of them enjoying their time with their buddies. I’m really looking forward to the rest of the semester because of all the hard work and dedication I have seen so far. It’s great working with the amazing people that participate on Saturday mornings!

- Margaret Tilt

“Ewan is racing and he suddenly stops and exclaims, “I can’t go anymore, I need some gas” and then that’s when we have our snack!”

NEXT ISSUE:

Interview:
Cassie and Karsen

February 18th



ISSUE 1 / FEBRUARY 4TH 2013

THE ACADIA S.M.I.L.E. PROGRAM



Welcome back; another year of the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program has begun! With the recent excitement of celebrating the program’s 30th anniversary, it’s great to get back and kick off the next 30 years! The program started 2013 on a high note with another successful ‘Call for New Volunteers’ meeting during the first week back of the winter semester. Interest for the program has grown so much that it had to

be moved to a larger space after last semester’s meeting that overflowed out into the halls of the BAC.

At training and program planning, directors, leaders and instructors new and old came together to prepare for the upcoming semester. Tuesday, January 22 marked

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“ It’s the thing I look forward to every Saturday ”



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S.M.I.L.E.’s first
week back



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Anniversary
Recap and
Participant
profiles



P3 / From
Participant
To Volunteer
and Why We
Smile



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THE NEW YEAR



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the first day back for the program; participants and instructors were happy to reunite in the pool. At Saturday S.M.I.L.E. medals were being awarded during Olympic day and this week everyone was swimming with the fishes for the Under the Sea theme. On Friday they took to the ice for a fun skate at the Acadia Athletics complex. During the week new instructors met their buddies for the first time, and there were a lot of smiles as old instructors were reunited with their buddies too.

Thank you, to all directors, leaders, instructors and participants for all of their time and effort in making this program such a success. Good luck this semester, and never stop smiling!



From 30 Great Years To 30 More: Acadia S.M.I.L.E.’s 30th Anniversary

September 2012 marked the 30th anniversary of the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program. Starting with a meet and greet with the Friday crew and then an open house on Saturday. The weekend events ended with a 30th Anniversary celebration held at Fountain Commons. The great efforts of Andrew Roach and Program Director Dr. Roxanne Seaman, made this event such a success. There was a good crowd of S.M.I.L.E. volunteers, Acadia staff, parents and alumni in attendance. As the new year commences, volunteers are looking forward to progression of this great program.

In 2013, the volunteers are only looking ahead to what the next 30 years will bring. It all starts with the army of volunteers in the program, exceeding 300 Acadia Students last year and predicted to exceed that number again next year. The growing demand for the program

“Launching S.M.I.L.E. Forward For The Next 30 Years.”

Participant Profile

BREANNA SKALING

Age: 11
Grade: 5 at KCA (Kings County Academy)
Favourite thing about instructor: Playing with Marianne and reading stories
Favorite colour: Heliotrope!
Favorite movie: Inspector Gadget
Favorite song: Music from the movie Bolt

MARIANNE O'CONNELL

Sitting down with 3rd year Acadia student Marianne and her buddy Breanna on Saturday morning Acadia S.M.I.L.E., we had the opportunity to ask them what their favourite thing about the program was. Breanna replied with swimming, playing games, and reading; her absolute favourite story is Snow White & the Seven Dwarves. Marianne followed up by saying, “I really like seeing Breanna each week, we always have a great time! And I also like how there are so many different things to do, for every age and skill level.”

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FROM PARTICIPANT TO VOLUNTEER

Ben Brown is a para-athlete and a dedicated volunteer to the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program. He has become Canada’s first paraplegic to race motocross and was Nova Scotia’s first para-athlete to compete at both summer and winter Canada Games. Ben started off in the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program as a patricipant from 1997-1999 and now spends time volunteering and giving back to the program.



When did you start S.M.I.L.E?
97-98’, finished 98-99’. I live with a mild case of Asperger’s and the reason why I was put into S.M.I.L.E. was cause I had horrible hand-eye coordination, and the whole idea was to get me to be better coordinated. At the same time that’s when I started organized sports so both things went hand in hand. Also it was to help with my swimming, cause I couldn’t swim to save my life. But S.M.I.L.E. every weekend is what I look forward to and the only times I had to miss S.M.I.L.E. was cause I had hockey the same exact time.

What’s your favourite S.M.I.L.E. memory from being a participant?
I’d say favourite, I’ve got a few; one was just throwing the football with my leader Jason. At the time I thought I could actually throw it pretty far. And the first time I actually jumped into the pool without a life jacket, it was scary as hell. And playing hockey all the time, just playing sports and just doing things like that. And also when Gym 491 was actually like a gym... there

>> Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ben-Brown/199529973470697>. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BenBrown191>

What’s your favourite S.M.I.L.E. memory as a volunteer?
It was varsity sports day and getting him (participant), me and our other leader Jordan to do stuff was sometimes challenging, because we both use wheelchairs, I convinced him, I said, “Listen, I’ll do this if you do this.” That’s how I got him engaged. And we had the parachute and we had the tackling dummies. I said, “Ok, I’ll hit this tackling dummy if you hit this tackling dummy.” So I charged full into it, and fell flat on my face. Then he hit it as hard as he could and that was awesome. Just getting him fully engaged in activities was absolutely awesome. I worked with him a lot in first semester; I had to switch from Saturday to Friday S.M.I.L.E. because I do track and field and it was conflicting, but I still wanted to volunteer. That’s the thing, even though I’m not paired with anyone I still show up as much as I can just to help out the program. What it did for me,

and what I know it does for the participants, it’s my way of giving back. If I’m going to volunteer for something I want to make sure it’s for something I believe in, and this is something I believe in.

What have you taken away from S.M.I.L.E.?
In my case, like I said I had bad hand-eye coordination, and now I have extremely good hand-eye coordination. Now as a competitive athlete, it improves self-confidence. And now, I still have that goal of wanting to get back into the pool...I actually want to learn how to swim. Because one thing that Roxanne likes having me here is just the fact that I have a physical disability, the participants can see me doing things full out. Just seeing me doing things it gives them that motivation. Go check out Ben’s Facebook page and Twitter to hear more from him!

WHY WE S.M.I.L.E.

Bryce Allan- Saturday Student Leader

“The one moment every week that’s the same and the greatest, is when Caleb comes and meets Ben. As soon as he hits the front doors he just beelines, “Where’s Ben? Where’s Ben?” and just gives him the biggest hug ever; and it’s the cutest thing. It’s the thing I look forward to every Saturday.”



Acadia S.M.I.L.E. Second Annual Golf Tournament

Last week, plans for the 2nd Annual Acadia S.M.I.L.E. Golf Tournament were set into motion! With Michael Del Bel at the head of the project again, we’re excited to start organizing and making the tournament even bigger and better than last year’s!

The goal for this upcoming year is to get a lot more people, especially students, out to play in the tournament so if you’re interested be on the lookout for the Facebook event page coming soon. The tournament is a lot of fun and you don’t have to be a golf pro to play! It’s a great event to enjoy with friends out on the beautiful Ken-Wo golf course while also supporting the Acadia S.M.I.L.E. program!

Contact Michael Del Bel (102646d@acadiau.ca) if interested in supporting or participating in the tournament.



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