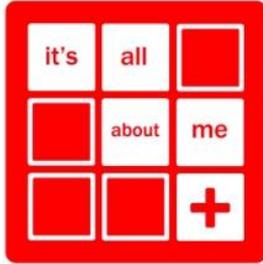


2015-2016 School Year Report

Prepared for:
Louis Riel School Division

Stephen Jones
June 2016





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It's All About Me

St. Boniface Hospital Research/Louis Riel School Division
Education Partnership

Prepared for: Louis Riel School Division

By: Stephen Jones, St. Boniface Hospital Research
June 2016

Summary

It's All About Me is a health science education partnership between the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre (SBRC) and the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD). The 2015-2016 school year is the eleventh year of this partnership, which was designed to connect current biomedical science at SBRC and medicine at St. Boniface Hospital with regular classroom instruction across LRSD. *It's All About Me* is continually developed in collaboration with teachers, administrators and staff from both sides of the partnership. Stephen Jones of SBRC coordinates *It's All About Me* and implements sessions with Divisional support from LRSD Instructional Support Coordinator Lauren Mitchell-Lawson. Meghan Kynoch also worked with *It's All About Me* on a full-time basis to develop and implement parallel programming for French Immersion schools and run in-school programming. Funding for this initiative consists of equal contributions from SBRC and LRSD.

In the 2015-2016 school year, all elementary schools in LRSD were targeted, focusing on health and science curriculum connections to SBRC in grades 5 to 8 in English and French and visiting other grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as requested by teachers and schools. The yearly launch and initial planning meeting with partner schools took place at SBRC in October 2015, and classroom sessions took place throughout the school year in one-day to one-week blocks in each school. This year also featured increased *It's All About Me* programming at the Youth BIOlab at the Research Centre, which welcomed over 1700 LRSD students for sessions in our authentic lab setting. Overall, in the period from September 2015-June 2016, *It's All About Me* worked with 24 schools in LRSD in collaboration with more than 115 classroom teachers, and connected with more than 3700 students in classes and at the Youth BIOlab. As in past years, teacher and student participation levels were high and teacher feedback on *It's All About Me* experiences was highly positive.



**It's All About Me
Celebrating 10 Years of Partnership!
2005-2015**



Partnership Overview

The *It's All About Me* partnership between the St. Boniface Hospital and Louis Riel School Division is designed to support health and science literacy for students and teachers in the middle and senior years by connecting science learning in the classroom to the current research and daily work done at the St. Boniface Hospital and Research Centre. The founding concept of *It's All About Me* is that health, science, research and medicine have meaning to each of us as individuals and as a community. Features of the partnership are as follows:

- Partnering since 2005, the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre and the Louis Riel School Division work together to bring current science and medicine at SBH into all schools of LRSD, connecting with over 36,000 kindergarten to grade 12 students
- An increased focus on students in the middle years (grades 5-8) to support students at formative ages where their decisions and attitudes towards health and science are developed
- Learning experiences are developed on an ongoing basis in collaboration with participating teachers and brought into classrooms, fitting with regular classroom instruction and meeting provincial curriculum learning outcomes
- Classroom “scientist-in-residence” sessions with staff from the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre include lab-based activities, dissections focussing on current research and disease, research presentations, scientific technology and much more, tailored to the needs of schools, teachers and students
- We work together to expose students, parents and teachers to the nature of science, the science behind health and to current health science in their community
- Our goal is science for all: showing *all* students how the material they learn in class across curriculum relates to both them as individuals and to applications at SBH
- We hope to create a basis for further science learning and to address the literacy skills required to understand the rapidly changing worlds of medicine and science

Partnership Goals

Our common goals are:

- To identify and understand how work in the classroom connects to health care and basic medical research at St. Boniface Hospital and Research Centre
- To continually develop a model for exposing *all* students to the work done at SBRC and SBH in a meaningful way
- To develop a framework to include all students in extending their personal understanding of health, the nature of science, scientific inquiry and design
- To provide an opportunity for teachers to engage in a professional learning community with “resident-in-schools” scientists to support and sustain the inquiry and design nature of science learning
- To maintain a relationship and a suitable vehicle to facilitate the communication and sharing of resources and expertise between LRSD and SBRC.

2015-2016 Participation

	Sessions	Students
In-School	85	1977
Youth BIOlab Visits	70	1747
Total	155	3724

Year-to-Year Comparison

Year	Sessions	Students
2015-2016	155	3724
2014-2015	152	3659
2013-2014	159	3798
2012-2013	161	3853
2011-2012	174	4008
2010-2011	167	3916
2009-2010	155	3717
2008-2009	144	3380
2007-2008	130	3275
2006-2007	103	2575
2005-2006 (pilot)	90	2000

LRSD Partner Schools 2015-2016

Archwood School	Hastings School*	Samuel Burland School*
Collège Béliveau*	Highbury School*	Shamrock School
Darwin School*	École Howden	St. George School*
Frontenac School*	École Julie-Riel	École St. Germain*
General Vanier School	École Marie-Anne-Gaboury*	École Varennes*
George McDowell School*	Marion School*	Victor H. L. Wyatt School
Glenwood School*	Minnetonka School	Victor Mager School
École Guyot*	Nelson McIntyre Collegiate*	Windsor School*

*Participated in visits to the SBRC Youth BIOlab

New Initiatives and Ongoing Activities in 2015-2016

Building upon on the success of the first ten years of *It's All About Me*, several new sessions and initiatives have been developed in collaboration with LRSD teachers and other partners this year. Some examples are briefly detailed below:

- *Full-time Availability of French Instruction and In-School Programming:* With Meghan Kynoch transitioning from a part-time to full-time employee this year, we were able to offer French language programming to schools throughout the school year. Meghan also handled the majority of in-school LRSD programming, and her full-time availability allowed us to reach more students in schools than in recent years. LRSD is the only school division partnered with the Youth BIOlab with access to in-school programming.
- *Two-Way Learning - Building Identity and Confidence in Urban First Nation Students:* we were involved in a University of Manitoba Major Outreach project with Dr. Barbara McMillan in the Faculty of Education and Victor Wyatt School, connecting science education to traditional First Nations knowledge and learning. We worked in multiple sessions with a group of First Nations grade 7 students from Victor Wyatt, connecting medicinal plant knowledge to work in the Research Centre's Canadian Centre for Agri-Food Research in Health and Medicine. The project was very successful and we look forward to continuing with these students next year.
- *Science Odyssey:* As part of the new national science experience week supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, we held Science Odyssey events in May 2016. St. George School grade 5 students participated in this special programming over three days.
- *Increased Use of the SBRC Youth BIOlab:* Based on the success of *It's All About Me*, the Youth BIOlab continues to represent a significant leap forward in the work we can do with students. LRSD students made up the majority of students who attended the BIOlab in 2015-2016.



St. George students during NSERC-funded national Science Odyssey programming, May 2016

Focus Areas for 2016-2017

Based on the results of teacher surveys and ongoing plans to improve the partnership, we have identified several focus areas as we go forward into the 2016-2017 school year.

- We are excited to be involved Nelson McIntyre Collegiate's inquiry-based schooling for Grade 9 students starting in fall 2016. In collaboration with Nelson Mac administration and teacher Tera Woodyard, the Youth BIOLab will be supporting learning in the Reproduction Unit of the Grade 9 Science curriculum over a series of lab and school visits. Our goal is to help students develop and test their own questions related to cell division and growth. Tera has applied for a Scientists in the School grant from Manitoba Education and Training to support this exciting project.
- Look at the possibility of an intensive 5-day session for high school students selected from across the division at the Youth BIOLab.
- Continue to increase awareness of the availability of full-time in-school programming for teachers new to the partnership. Pursue new ways for Meghan to connect with both French and English schools to promote the availability of BIOLab and in-school sessions.
- Engage more teachers in the continued development and sharing of pre-visit activities and post-assessments through ongoing development of LRSD *It's All About Me* portal site.
- Continue developing an increased focus on student health choices, nutrition and healthy living.
- Ongoing development of wider program assessment and divisional web portal, especially as the BIOLab becomes an option for more schools.



Victor Wyatt School students participating in the Two-Way Learning project exploring the chemistry behind medicinal plants (left) that they collected in the boreal forest (right).

Program Evaluation

The following are compiled from program evaluations sent to collaborating teachers. Averages from teacher responses to an online evaluation, based on a rating scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

	Overall
This partnership encourages students to consider careers in science	4.9
This partnership motivates students to further pursue studies in science	4.9
This partnership increases student interest in science	4.8
There was an appropriate balance between instruction and hands-on activities	4.9
Information presented was appropriate to student prior knowledge	4.6
The information presented and activities performed were well-aligned with curriculum	4.9

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to the students, teachers, administrators and staff of the Louis Riel School Division for welcoming this partnership into your schools. The curiosity, interest and enthusiasm of your students are encouraging to everyone interested in the future of science and medicine, and are the true key to the success of this partnership. Thanks to Duane Brothers, Superintendent of LRSD, Dr. Grant Pierce, Executive Director of Research at SBRC and Christian Michalik, Assistant Superintendent at LRSD for their constant support of this unique partnership. Many thanks also to Lauren Mitchell-Lawson and Harry Bell at LRSD for their hard work and dedication to this partnership and to Meghan Kynoch for her enthusiasm and patience. Thanks also to staff at SBRC for their advice, resources and expertise.