

Title: Multicultural Awareness Club “MAC”

Focus: (Character Traits) **Inclusion, Empathy, Respect**

Background: The “MAC” club was created in the 1990’s in response to racism in the school community, and the growing groups of students being pulled into negative behaviours which focused on students from other cultures.

Resources: Teacher Advisor, and students from various cultural backgrounds

Schools to Contact: Northern Collegiate (N.C.I.V.S.)

Outline: “MAC” was started by a group of concerned students and began as a series of weekly meetings, during which students from all backgrounds would share their culture with others. The goal was to use knowledge and understanding as a way to break the tension and fight back against those who sought to divide the school and its students. These weekly meetings continue to this day and include food, dance demonstrations, movies and information sessions. From these meetings came MAC Food Day. Once a year, during a single lunch hour, MAC students organize one of our gyms into the cultural celebrations of food and information from all over the world. Students enjoy homemade foods from roughly 15 different countries, and learn about the different cultures of the world as a result. Finally, MAC night was established after 911, and has grown into one of the biggest multicultural events in Southern Ontario. MAC night brings much of the world’s food, dance, music, and Art into our schools for a night of cultural entertainment, education and understanding. It is organized and run by MAC students, but the entire community of Sarnia takes part. MAC night has grown year by year, and in 2008 approximately 1500 people took part in the evenings celebrations.

Impact:

Student Achievement: MAC is almost entirely student run working with the community to develop these events. Won the YMCA peace metal, the mayor’s honour list

School Culture: Mural painted from a provincial grant which reflects the multiculturalism in the school. Reaches out to students and attempts to make everyone feel s honoured and welcome. Positive influence in school and community

Student, Staff and Parent Engagement: MAC Night where food and dances are shared among the whole Sarnia community

Possible Extension Activities /Reflections: Multiculturalism Day or Night