

# **2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **BY THE NUMBERS:**

**9 WEEKS**

**9 TEACHERS**

**6 LDSB**

**3 ALCDSB**

**230 STUDENTS**

**88 VOLUNTEERS**

**27 OBSERVERS**

**53 GUEST SPEAKERS**

## **4 SITES**

**AGNES ETHERINGTON  
ART CENTRE**

**KINGSTON CITY HALL**

**MILLER MUSEUM OF  
GEOLOGY**

**MUSEUM OF HEALTH  
CARE**

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- **WHIG STANDARD**
- **CKWS**
- **ICI RADIO-  
CANADA**
- **LDSB LEARNING IN  
LIMESTONE**
- **SNAPD KINGSTON**

# **Beyond Classrooms**

**- Kingston**

## **A message from our Board Chair**

Throughout 2015-16, Beyond Classrooms Kingston continued to build on prior successes. Concerns about BCK's ability to continue to deliver a high level of programming with limited resources resulted in a decision to freeze programming at the nine week, four host site level. It was hardly a quiet year: we achieved incorporation and received charitable status, and also piloted a French Immersion week in partnership with City Hall. Our marking time year also gave us an opportunity to continue to refine BCK's inquiry 'brand'.

In January, we were notified that our collaborative application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation with the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites, had been successful. The OTF Grow Grant of \$113,200 over two years, not only permitted BCK to hire Program Coordinator Karla Tynski, but provided funds for a comprehensive assessment of the BCK program, to be undertaken by Queen's University Faculty of Education's Research Assessment Group. And, a \$4,000 grant from the City of Kingston Heritage Fund, reassures us that BCK meets the City's criteria for valued cultural programming, that is worthy of support.

Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, our continuing partnership with the Kingston Association of Museums, and the support of the City of Kingston Heritage Fund, Beyond Classrooms Kingston just took a giant step forward!

Ann Blake,  
Acting Board Chair  
Beyond Classrooms Kingston



## A message from our Coordinator



With the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Funding, I joined Beyond Classrooms as Coordinator in early 2016. Beyond Classrooms and the 'Open Minds' concept immediately resonated with me. As a classroom teacher, I understood the power of inquiry-based and student-driven learning so I was confident that pursuing it in a cultural space for a week would be a success. However, I had no idea how remarkable the learning experience would be until I participated in sessions this spring.

It has been a thrill to witness students immersed in Kingston's cultural spaces. I have seen students sliding into councillors' chairs at City Hall to simulate a debate; dramatizing poses of subjects in the Agnes Etherington Art Centre portrait gallery; probing experts at the Miller Museum of Geology with question after question; and settling into their favourite spot at the Museum of Health Care to sketch artefacts that piqued their interest.

Teachers have also witnessed examples of transformation and empowerment, including reluctant writers furiously writing thoughts and questions in their journals, and quiet students sharing their reflections with peers. Teachers have also been inspired. One said that Beyond Classrooms has transformed the way she teaches.

I am grateful for the strong network of individuals working together to support Beyond Classrooms Kingston. These include our host sites and their staff, KAM, the City of Kingston, community experts, the school boards, teachers, and the countless volunteers who continue to contribute to our success. I would like to extend a special thanks to Ann Blake and the BCK Board for their knowledge, passion and tireless support. I look forward to the upcoming year and the opportunity to continue to support inquiry-based learning in our community.

Karla Tynski

*"Over this past week  
I've learned more  
and more each time  
our class journals  
and shares."  
Grade 7 student*



## Sponsors

Ontario Trillium Foundation

City of Kingston Heritage Fund

Kingston Association of Museums, Galleries, and Historic Sites

Rotary Club of Kingston

Peters Drugs, Camera Kingston, and Paradissio Pizza

## Our Classrooms

### Agnes Etherington Art Centre

Ms. Diamond's Grade 5  
Joyceville Public School

Mr. Lacey's Grade 5  
Rideau Heights Public School

### Miller Museum of Geology

Ms. Fraser's Grade 7  
St. Marguerite Bourgeous Catholic School

Ms. Byrne-Ottenhof's Grade 4-5  
Archbishop O'Sullivan Catholic School

### Kingston City Hall

Ms. Cuthbert-Brown's Grade 4-5  
Pope John XXII Catholic School

Ms. Cancian's Grade 6  
Loughborough Public School

Ms. Norris' Grade 5-6  
Polson Park Public School

### Museum of Health Care

Ms. Davis' Grade 5-6  
Centennial Public School

Ms. Putnam's Grade 6-7  
Selby Public School

*"I really loved  
being here. I  
thought it was  
an awesome  
experience. I had  
so much fun the  
week went by so  
fast!"*  
**Grade 4 student**

## Beyond Classrooms Facts:

### Journal Writing:

3173 journal entries and sketches

**Website:** [www.beyondclassrooms.ca](http://www.beyondclassrooms.ca)

Visits: 5,279

Pages viewed: 29,302

Hits: 66,556

**Twitter:** @bckygk

Tweets: 152

Impressions: 50,836

Profile Visits: 3019

Followers: 309

Mentions: 203

**Facebook:**

Beyond Classrooms-Kingston

People following: 111

Post reach: 18,475





## Why Beyond Classrooms?

Beyond Classrooms is a year-long program that builds inquiry learning and journal writing into a classroom environment. During the program year, teachers are able to move their classroom into a community museum, art galleries or community site for an entire week. The site becomes an extension of the classroom where students to enhance their learning skills and knowledge of their community. Teachers integrate collaborative, inquiry-based learning while working alongside experts and the Beyond Classrooms Coordinator. Learning at a museum or gallery for a week takes away the field trip feeling and creates an environment where students slow down. They look closely and reflect through journal writing and they apply these new skills to their everyday learning.

### *Beyond Classrooms creates:*

- Active citizens
- Engaged thinkers
- Positive attitudes towards writing
- Students connected with the community

*Thank you to our presenters who shared their time and expertise with us!*



REPORT BY ANN BLAKE AND  
KARLA TYNSKI, SEPTEMBER 2016

## **Beyond Classrooms**

- Kingston

### Upcoming 2016-2017 Program Year

Agnes Etherington Art Centre - 2 classes

Bellevue House - 1 class

Frontenac County Schools Museum  
- 3 classes

Kingston City Hall - 3 classes

Military Communications & Electronics  
Museum - 1 class

Miller Museum of Geology - 2 classes

Museum of Health Care - 2 classes

*Moving classrooms into community spaces*