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## McEwen Leadership Comes Alive!



On Thursday, October 16th, the McEwen Leadership Fundamentals (IDC30) class embarked on a two-day journey to YMCA Camp Wanakita in Haliburton, Ontario. Coordinated and implemented with the assistance of ALIVE Outdoors Inc., the purpose of the field trip was to provide the students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of team-building and leadership development activities.

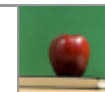
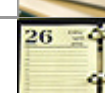
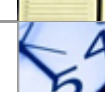
Throughout the day, the students navigated through several different group scenarios by applying their leadership, motivation, communication, and problem-solving skills in order to achieve a common goal for the group.

Mother Nature cooperated fully early on Thursday morning by providing a beautiful background upon which to begin the leadership workshop. The students were split into two groups and participated in many different activities: 'Mouse Trap Trust Game', 'Lava River Navigation', 'Shrinking Island Scenario', 'Jump Rope Jumble', 'Blindfolded Obstacle Course', and many more. After a quick lunch, the students headed to the low and high ropes courses and were able to test their problem-solving ability, teamwork, and group trust by trying to tackle such elements as the Dangle Duo, Spider's Web, King's Ring, and Team Tower. The camaraderie evident among the group kept spirits very high throughout the afternoon's activities, and as the day progressed it was clear that increased team cohesion and natural leaders were emerging from the group.

After dinner, the students enjoyed a quick strategy game of 'Capture the Flag' and then listened to two

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guest speakers through an entrepreneurial seminar. Jalynn Bosley, co-founder and owner of ALIVE Outdoors ([www.aliveoutdoors.com](http://www.aliveoutdoors.com)), discussed the pros and cons of entrepreneurship and the importance of finding and pursuing one's passion in life. Jonathan Nyquist, company founder and operations director of NYQUEST Training and Placement ([www.go-nyquest.com](http://www.go-nyquest.com)), discussed the process of obtaining grant funding for entrepreneurial ventures and the importance of developing solid networking skills. The students asked questions of both Jalynn and Jonathan throughout the evening in an informal setting.

Overall, the field trip excursion earned rave reviews from participants and organizers alike. Jalynn Bosley stated in a post-event email "I find that the SAC boys really are endearing young men with a great energy and brotherhood. It was a real pleasure to connect with all of them." **James Mildon '10** described the field trip as "the best high school field trip ever". Finally, **Luke MacLeod '10** mentioned that "listening to the speakers gave me a better idea of what I might like to do and what it is like to be an entrepreneur."

The ALIVE Outdoors field trip is the first of many events planned for the McEwen Leadership Fundamentals class during the 2008-09 academic year. The course launched this year as a brand new element of the McEwen Leadership Program, an academic program modelled after the vision of **Rob McEwen '69**. The McEwen Leadership Program provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and apply them through 'real-world' business simulations. Stay tuned to learn of more experiential learning opportunities for the students as they enjoy more guest speakers, conferences, field trips, and special projects in the coming months.

A special thanks to Jalynn Bosley at ALIVE Outdoors Inc., the Middle School Beyond the Gates program, Courtenay Shrimpton and Mark Service, all of whom played an integral part in the successful design and implementation of a wonderful experience for the students.

For further information regarding the McEwen Leadership Program visit the program website at [http://kilby.](http://kilby.sac.on.ca/Faculty/sludwig/McEwen%20Leadership%20Program.htm)

[sac.on.ca/Faculty/sludwig/McEwen%20Leadership%20Program.htm](http://kilby.sac.on.ca/Faculty/sludwig/McEwen%20Leadership%20Program.htm). For more pictures of this particular

event, click on 'Program News'.

*Story by Sean Ludwig, Course Director, McEwen Leadership Program*