Info POP-Explo-EN

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Fall 2012

What a beautiful summer we had! We hope that everyone's return to school went well.

This fall marks the Personal Orientation Project (POP) program's sixth year in Québec schools. The Exploration of Vocational Training (Explo) program is now in its fifth year, and the Entrepreneurship (EN) program in its fourth year.

Even though the implementation of these three programs is already well behind us and the life they take on in the schools depends on each person involved, the team from the Direction des programmes will continue to publish its quarterly newsletter *Info POP-Explo-EN*. This year, the newsletters will focus on highlighting certain basic information about the programs.

1. **POP Index - Reminder**

    The POP Index [http://www.repertoireppo.qc.ca/en/] is aimed at students in the POP program and was developed to work in the program's pedagogical context. This online catalogue makes it easy not only to search for and share digital teaching tools, but also to explore occupational or training sector sites and try out actual experiential work situations. Research tools for students in the Exploration of Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship programs are also available through this index.

2. **Tool Kits**

- **Phase 4 tool kits**
  The English school boards collaborated in the ordering and reception of the Phase 4 tool kits. The POP classrooms now have a complete set of tool kits and the students can benefit from these additional resources in their individual career explorations. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this happen.

- **Continuous updating of activity guides for tool kits for the POP program**
  During the 2012-2013 school year, some of the tool kit activity guides will be reviewed and updated as required (new links, images, improved activities, etc.). The updated versions will be made available on the POP Index site [www.repertoireppo.qc.ca/en/] and can also be consulted on the POP Links page [http://www.liensppo.qc.ca]. To make them easier to find, the updated activity guides will have the indication "New Version" and the logo beside their titles on the POP Links page.

- **New tool kits for the POP program**
  Three new tool kit activity guides are currently being developed and will be available in spring 2013. Following a discussion about the community's needs, the DEEN-CREATE Subcommittee decided that the following three tool kit activity guides should be translated and adapted: Jewellery Making, Mining, and Nursing. The activity guides have been translated and are now being adapted.

  When these tool kit activity guides become available in PDF or Word format, they will be posted on the POP Index site [http://www.repertoireppo.qc.ca/en/] and will also be available online on the POP Links page [http://www.liensppo.qc.ca]. To make them easier to find, the new activity guides will have the indication "New Guides" and the logo beside their titles on the POP Links page. Schools that want paper copies for use in the classroom can download all files for free.

Example

Ms. Smith, a Secondary III POP teacher, updated her tool kits for her POP class at the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Smith has been teaching the POP program for two years. In her POP classroom, there are a complete set of printed tool kit activity guides and their related boxes of material. There are 29 tool kits consisting of 28 activity guides (binders) and 23 boxes of material.

At the beginning of the school year, she made sure that all the materials were in place and organized. She started checking the tool kits by consulting the POP Links page [http://www.liensppo.qc.ca] and going over the activity guides that were updated (those bearing the mention "New Version" and the logo). The changes made and their history are available in the section "Previous versions and change history." While checking for changes, she took into account only the important changes and photocopied the pages with changes and replaced them in the binders containing the activity guides in the classroom. She also checked the page numbers of the updated activities to make sure they were the same as in the previous versions. If she had had access to a copy and print centre, she might have had these pages laminated. The money required to print these pages could be taken directly from the $2-per-student budget (purchase of consumable materials) received by the school board.
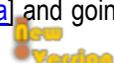
For each tool kit, she verified the permanent and consumable materials in the boxes of material with the help of her students. The class referred to Appendix A, *Inventory list of materials for each tool kit,* in the Teacher's Guide. This guide can be found in the tool kit section of the Career Development pages on LEARN.

* The **consumable** material in the tool kits can be renewed using the budget of $2 per student, allocated to the school boards since the 2008-2009 school year. (For further details, go to http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/dgfe/regles/reg_cs/pdf/cs2008-2009-amende.pdf p. 14.)

Ms. Smith, or the person in her school responsible for purchasing materials, contacted the suppliers in order to acquire the missing materials.

3. **Online training for the Entrepreneurship program – *Coming soon***

An online training Web site is being developed for the Entrepreneurship program.

When the site is up and running, it will be announced to our consultants at the DEEN-CREATE Subcommittee and other partners such as LEARN.

4. **Cultural Activities Month at School**

We are looking for teachers, education consultants or mentors who would be interested in writing suggestions for activities or in making a video for the 2014 Cultural Activities Month at School. For an idea of what this may entail, see the suggestions for activities for the POP and EXPLO programs in 2012 or the video productions available on the Web site of the Ministère under the Culture in the School section.

Interested?
E-mail Karine Cloutier-Côté at Karine.cloutier-cote@mels.gouv.qc.ca.

5. **Information on computer services**

- **Installation of technological applications on computers in POP classrooms.**
  Some activities in the tool kits require the installation of specific applications. For example, for the Aviation tool kit, the X-Plane software package must be installed on the classroom computers. All the necessary information can be found in the Career Development pages of the LEARN Web site in the tool kit section in a document entitled *POP classroom technical requirements*.

6. **Career Development Community**

- **Career Development pages on the LEARN Web site - Community of sharing**
  The Career Development community of educators have worked collaboratively to develop many resources to support the implementation of the POP, Explo and EN programs. Visit the Career Development pages for the first time, or again, to discover the many resources supporting these programs. These resources, along with teacher-friendly explanations, can be used immediately in the classroom. You will also find links to MELS documentation and Web sites. We are constantly updating the Web site and hope you will visit it soon!

- **Mentoring Communities of Practice**
  Mentoring will be available again for the fourth year. The project provides timely professional development by teachers for teachers. The project will continue to be flexible to meet the needs of the different school boards and regions. The project will be supported by the Direction des services à la communauté Anglophone at the MELS, yet will be run by the participants involved with mentors who will take on increasing responsibility. Look for the invitation to join the Mentoring Communities of Practice that will be sent out shortly to your school board. If you are a professional new to our mentoring project, consider viewing the mentoring video.

Have a great school year!

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