The Urban Classroom

Taking Advantage of Everything a City Has to Offer

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Trafalgar School for Girls

- The Trafalgar Institute (right), was founded in 1871.
- Trafalgar School for Girls was founded in 1887.
- The oldest all-girls English school in Québec.
- Strong affiliation to McGill University.
Our mission:

In the heart of downtown Montreal, our diverse school community challenges and inspires girls to embrace learning, be confident and shape a better world.
Constraints:

1. Limited school space
   - Urban location limits expansion
   - Small school size limits room/space availability

2. Cost
   - Machinery is expensive
   - Fundraising is difficult

3. Knowhow
   - Keen understanding of how machinery works
   - Ability to repair broken machinery
   - Safety guidelines
Trafalgar today
Project-based learning activities

- Established businesses within community
  - facilitated by

- Teach necessary life skills
  - that follow

- Québec curriculum
  - and are
    - Mission aligned

- Benefit women
  - that is

- Become self sufficient
  - in order to
Acquiring valuable skill sets

1. Building, repair and design
2. Proper food preparation and budgeting
3. Sewing, fashion design, and wearables
4. Physical activity and wellness
Building, repair and design

● Design and engineering projects in class
  ○ Proper use of common household tools
    ■ Hand held drills and dremmels
    ■ Exacto knives
    ■ Soldering irons
    ■ Levels
  ○ Instill confidence
Community makerspace

- Access to larger scale tools
  - 3D printing
  - CNC cutter
  - Laser cutter
  - Woodworking tools
- Modest user fee
- Knowledgeable animators
- Safe environment
Proper food preparation and budgeting

- Students learning to bake cookies (science) and pie (math)
- Gardening in our own backyard with our butterfly and bee friendly garden.
  - School apiary (future entrepreneurship project)
  - Vegetable patch
  - Composting
- Budgeting in our math classes
  - Discussions about finance
  - Nutritious yet frugal meals
  - Where can you save money
Community cooking and gardening

- Santropol Roulant: community organization that offers food/nutritional services to people in Montreal.
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Growing, preparing, delivering food
- Volunteer opportunities community service
- Lessons in cooking and meal preparation are offered to members of the community in return for volunteer hours in their kitchen.
- Volunteering at their community garden plot in Senneville, Québec
Sewing, fashion design, and wearables

- Learning to replace buttons on blazers and kilts in class.
- Learning different types of stitches in class in preparation for a cell model project.
- Learning wearable circuitry.
Sewing co-op

- Students learned to cut size and cut out a dress pattern.
- Basic threading and bobbin set up of a sewing machine.
- How to properly sew clothing, using a machine.
- Over 30 sewing machines in one place.
- Knowledgeable animators
INITIATION À LA COUTURE
Physical activity and wellness

- Physical education classes twice a week for all grades.
- 12 GMAA sports teams are fielded throughout the year.
- 70% of our students participate on one or more school sports team.
- Limited because of small gym and lack of playing field.
- Make use of our outdoor green space for physical education and team practices.
- Use of the mountain for walks and training.
- Yoga sessions.
Introducing new sports

- Royal Montreal Curling Club
  - Sec V students carry out a physics lab while learning the basics of curling.
  - Royal Montreal Curling Club is the oldest sports club in North America.
  - Introduces students to a non-mainstream sport that they can do for a very long time.
The city’s the limit...
Potential recruitment partnerships

- Explorations summer day camp
  - Over 400 children aged 5-16 attend summer camp at Trafalgar.
- Debate camp Canada
  - Use of school space for two weeks in summer.
  - Traf teachers, students, and alumni act as facilitators.
- Montreal Hoshuko school
  - Supplemental Japanese school
  - Uses facilities during the school year on weekends.
Science in the City

- One-day science camp for girls in grades 4-6.
  - 52 girls participated
- In partnership with:
  - Physics Matters, a McGill University Physics dept. outreach group
  - Explorations camp
  - Bombardier
- Various science-related workshops:
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Coding
Lesson plan: Teaching life skills

bit.ly/nCgS17
Our contact info

Please feel free to get in touch with either of us if you have any questions or need help getting an idea off the ground!

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