

Heritage College Early Childhood Program links with École Côte-du-Nord

On February 15, the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program at Heritage College began the fifth year of a very successful “After-4” program involving 55 students from École Côte-du-Nord in the Hull sector of Gatineau.

On Mondays from mid-February to late April each year, the one-hour “After-4” program is an important part of the Curriculum (5-12 years) course in the ECCE program at Heritage. It gives second-year students the opportunity to polish their guidance techniques and gain valuable experience as they plan and implement after-school activities for the elementary school students who participate. At the same time, the primarily francophone children from École Côte-du-Nord have the opportunity to work on their English skills by means of a play-based curriculum. They love being at the “big” school enjoying activities in the ECCE crafts room, the gym or outside.

This mutually-beneficial arrangement helps to fulfil the commitments of the Early Childhood Care and Education department at Heritage to link education theory with practice and to establish links with the community in which their students live and where their graduates work. In fact, the children enjoy it so much that many of the participants from École Côte-du-Nord return to Heritage for the annual Summer Camp program offered by the College.

Early Childhood Care and Education is a three-year diploma (DEC) program that qualifies students to work with children, from infancy to 12 years of age, in a variety of childcare settings such as: daycare, nursery schools, after-school programs, resource centres and home care. In addition to working in childcare facilities, many graduates also find work in administrative positions that deal with children, their education and care, or continue their own education in that field at the university level.

For more information about Early Childhood Care and Education, or about the other diploma programs offered by West Quebec’s only English cégep, visit the Heritage College website at www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca.

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